

U.S. War Games Seen As Warning To Syria's Assad

JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press

ZARQA, Jordan (AP) — Under the watchful eye of stern-faced American advisers, hundreds of U.S.-trained Jordanian commandos fanned across this dusty desert plain, holding war games that could eventually form the basis of an assault in Syria.



A U.S. Navy Seahawk helicopter hovers over Jordanian naval craft during joint maneuvers in the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

With the recent deployment of Patriot missiles near the Syrian border, and the mock Syrian accents of those playing the enemy, the message was clear: There is fear of spillover from the Syrian war in this U.S.-allied kingdom, and the potential for a Jordanian role in securing Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles should Bashar Assad's regime lose control.

Dubbed Eager Lion, the 12-day exercise involves combined land, air and sea maneuvers across the country. It brings together 8,000 personnel from 19 Arab and European nations to train on border security, irregular warfare, terrorism and counterinsurgency.

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PEACE SIGN



Muhammad Naeem a representative of the Taliban speaks during a press conference at the official opening of their office in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. In a major breakthrough, the Taliban and the U.S. announced Tuesday that they will hold talks on finding a political solution to ending nearly 12 years of war in Afghanistan as the Islamic militant movement opened an office in Qatar.

(AP Photo/Osama Faisal)

Taliban step toward peace talks hailed by U.S.

MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ALISSA J. RUBIN

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WASHINGTON - The Taliban signaled a breakthrough in efforts to open Afghan peace negotiations Tuesday, announcing the opening of a political office in Qatar and new readiness to talk with U.S. and Afghan officials, who said in turn that they would travel to meet insurgent negotiators there within days.

If the talks begin, they would be a significant step

in peace efforts that have been locked in an impasse for nearly 18 months, after the Taliban walked out and accused the United States of negotiating in bad faith. U.S. officials have long pushed for such talks, believing them crucial to stabilizing Afghanistan after the 2014 Western military withdrawal.

The Taliban overture coincided with an important symbolic moment in that withdrawal: the formal announcement Tuesday of

a complete security handover from U.S. troops to Afghan forces across the country. And that shift has already become obvious in recent months as the Afghan forces have tangibly taken the lead - and as the Taliban have responded by increasing the tempo of attacks against them.

Yet since at least 2009, even top U.S. generals maintained that it could not be won on the battlefield, and U.S. diplomats have engaged in nearly three

years of secret meetings and working through diplomatic back channels to lay the groundwork for talks to begin. Diplomats and intermediaries from Germany, Norway and Britain have also played crucial roles, administration officials said Tuesday, and some said they believed Pakistan had played a more active role in recent months to urge the exiled Taliban leadership to move toward talks.

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AP EXCLUSIVE:

US war games in Jordan send strong signal to Assad

Continued from front

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Duke Shienle said Syria "is a concern that all our regional partners share."

The Syrian crisis is "causing all military in the region to increase intensity," he said as he supervised masked commandos in black uniforms from Jordan and two other Syria neighbors — Iraq and Lebanon — in a mock exercise to free a hijacked aircraft on an airstrip in the eastern Jordanian desert.

Nearby, U.S. military strategists taught Jordanian riot police to quickly contain a mock protest by angry mobs in a crowded refugee camp. The trainers refused to name the camp, but the trainees said it was "Zaatar," a reference to a refugee settlement straddling the border with Syria that shelters around 185,000 displaced Syrians. "We want freedom! We want a free Syria!" the trainees shouted, speaking the Syrian dialect as they depicted Syrian refugees. Others looked on from under dusty tents pitched on a strip of desert outside a Jordanian army compound. The location of this exercise and others could not be disclosed in line with Jordanian army regulations.

Elsewhere, in the south, hundreds of masked Jordanian commandos in black uniforms used machine-guns, rocket propellers and tanks to overwhelm an enemy target as Jordanian helicopters and fighter jets — all part of previous American donations — buzzed the skies overhead.

"We want to tell anyone with malicious intentions toward Jordan that we can hit back where it hurts most painfully," said one Jordanian commando, speaking under scorching sun in the arid mountain region. He could not be named under army regulations and declined to say if the enemy he was fighting was Assad's army.

Other training focused on

humanitarian relief and crisis management and involves 7,000 civilians from non-governmental organizations engaged in providing assistance to Syrian refugees, said Tawfiq Hinnawi of the International Committee of the Red Cross, one of the participating NGOs.

Jordan hosts more than half a million Syrians who

fled Assad's military onslaught and that number is expected to rise to 1.2 million by the end of the year. "These exercises bolster our defense capabilities," said Jordanian army Maj. Gen. Awni Edwan, adding that the Eager Lion exercises, which end Thursday, are routine, having being held twice before at the same time. "We don't intend to

attack anybody," he said. Jordan has been leery that Assad may eventually use his chemical weapons against his neighbors, or if his regime starts to collapse, his stockpile may fall into the hands of al-Qaida or other militants who are trying to rise to power in Syria.

There has been mounting speculation that should

Assad's regime begin to lose control, Jordan will dispatch its highly-skilled, U.S.-trained and equipped commandos to secure Assad's chemical weapons and create a safe haven for Syrian refugees along the 230-mile (375-kilometer) border with Jordan, according to a Western diplomat who monitors Syria from his base in Jordan. □



U.S. Navy sailors stand in formation aboard the USS Stockdale before maneuvers with the Jordanian Navy in the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan as part of Eager Lion, a multinational military exercise, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Iran's president meets newly elected successor

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president has discussed transferring power in a meeting with his newly elected successor, the official IRNA news agency reported Tuesday.

The report said President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad congratulated Hasan Rowhani on his victory in the Friday election. Rowhani won the election outright by gaining nearly 51 percent of the vote, eliminating the need for a runoff. He is considered relatively moderate, though he backs pursuing Iran's suspect nuclear development program. Rowhani has pledged to work for better



Outgoing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, and President-elect Hasan Rowhani, right, make their way during their meeting at Rowhani's office in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ebrahim Seyyedi)

ties with the world, aiming to reduce the West's sanctions against Iran over the nuclear issue. The West suspects Iran intends to build nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charge. Ahmadinejad was demonstrably hostile to the West, and his frequent belligerent statements were seen as worsening the already tense relations between Iran and the world. At the meeting between the outgoing and incoming presidents, Ahmadinejad said his administration "is ready to transfer all responsibilities to the next government in a proper way," according to the report. □

The Ins & Outs Of The G-8 Summit Promises

DAVID McHUGH
Associated Press

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (AP) — Group of Eight summit participants are powerful people: the leaders of the U.S., Russia, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Japan, plus top officials from the European Union. But they only make promises.

There's no actual change until the words are pursued by individual governments or other international organizations. Sometimes G-8 promises contain few details about how they'll be fulfilled. Other times they skip over places where the leaders couldn't agree.

With that in mind, these are highlights of the summit's concluding statement Tuesday.

SYRIA'S WAR

The G-8 unified behind a U.S.-Russian proposal for a peace conference. But Russian President Vladimir Putin didn't budge from his support for Syrian President Bashar Assad. President Barack Obama says the U.S. plans to send arms to the rebels and British Prime Minister David Cameron called it "unthinkable" that Assad could stay as a player in Syria's future government. Missing was any shared view on Assad's fate or on the question of arming either side. Still, they agreed that a U.N. mission should be permitted to investigate U.S. assertions that Syrian government forces have used chemical weapons.

TAX DODGING

Leaders agreed in principle to take steps to stop international corporations from taking aggressive steps to shifting business addresses and the reporting of profits across borders "to low-tax jurisdictions."

They supported a project by the Organization on Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of mostly rich countries, to come up with an action plan for a meeting of the Group of 20 finance ministers in July. The G-20 is a broader group of both rich and developing countries representing 80 percent of the world economy. It has taken over from the G-8 as the main forum for talks on the global economy.

Skepticism abounds over tackling such an immensely complex subject. U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat from Michigan who has held hearings on offshore tax avoidance by profitable multinational corporations, said the measures could "strike a hammer blow" against offshore tax evasion "if carried out."

SHELL COMPANIES

The leaders agreed in principle that tax authorities should be told who really stands behind so-called shell companies used to avoid taxes and launder money obtained through corruption.

But the G-8 made no explicit call to create a registry of so-called beneficial owners or to make the information public.

FREE TRADE

The U.S. and European Union members agreed to open negotiations next month in Washington on a broad trade agreement to slash tariffs and other barriers that restrict exports and competition. The full summit rejected efforts to protect domestic markets and urged "driving forward free trade" under the central role of the World Trade Organization, a forum where countries can settle their trade disputes.

OIL AND MINING

Often, the money that oil and mining companies pay to governments in the developing world disappears into a corrupt accounting system. □

G-8 ends with leaders seeking unity

C. VINOGRAD
S. POGATCHNIK

Associated Press
ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (AP) — President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other G-8 leaders attempted to speak with one voice Tuesday on seeking a negotiated Syrian peace settlement — yet couldn't publicly agree on whether this means President Bashar Assad must go.

Their declaration at the end of the two-day Group of Eight summit sought

dence," a definition that to British, French or American eyes would rule out Assad. It made no reference to sending U.S., British or French weapons to rebels, an option being kept open by the three G-8 members. Russia refused to back any declaration that made Assad's ouster an explicit goal, arguing that it would be impossible to start peace talks with a predetermined outcome.

Reflecting the profound divisions that remain, the British host, Prime Minister

(Syrian) opposition, such as those who committed the brutal murder in London. Do the Europeans want to provide such people with weapons? ... We are calling on all our partners to thoroughly think it over again before taking this very dangerous step," Putin said.

Reflecting growing unease at the behavior of Muslim extremists in the ranks of Syria's splintered opposition forces, the G-8 declaration said participants in any peace talks must



Members of the NGO group Oxfam, dressed in golf clothes and wearing paper mache masks, imitate G-8 leaders during a demonstration at the Enniskillen Golf course near the venue of the G-8 summit in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, on Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

to narrow the diplomatic chasm between Assad's key backer, Russia, and Western leaders on starting peace talks in Geneva to end a two-year civil war that has claimed an estimated 93,000 lives.

G-8 leaders also published sweeping goals for tightening the tax rules on globe-trotting corporations that long have exploited loopholes to shift profits into foreign shelters that charge little tax or none. But that initiative, aimed at forcing the Googles and Apples of the world to pay higher taxes, contained only aspirations, not binding commitments.

The declaration on Syria said the country needs a new coalition government with "a top leadership that inspires public confi-

David Cameron, declared it was "unthinkable that President Assad can play any part in the future government of his country. He has blood on his hands. He has used chemical weapons."

Putin — speaking at the same time as Cameron at a different location in a gesture that some diplomats construed as rude — rejected Cameron's views as unproven.

And referring to last month's butchery of an off-duty British soldier in London by alleged ax- and knife-wielding Muslim extremists, Putin warned Cameron that the weapons sent to Syria might end up being used to kill people in Europe.

"There are many such criminals in the ranks of the

agree to expel al-Qaida-linked fighters from the country.

The declaration condemned human rights abuses committed by government forces and rebels alike, and called on both sides to permit access by U.N.-led chemical weapons experts trying to investigate the contentious claims of chemical weapons use.

In its only concrete commitment, the plan pledges a further \$1.5 billion in aid for Syrians driven from their homes by the conflict: 4.2 million within Syria and 1.6 million more taking refuge in neighboring countries. The G-8 noted that the new funds would cover only part of the United Nations' 2013 appeal for \$5.2 billion in Syria-directed aid. □

Immigration bill would slash deficit, budget office finds

ASHLEY PARKER

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WASHINGTON - Congressional budget analysts said Tuesday that legislation to overhaul the nation's immigration laws would cut close to \$1 trillion from the federal deficit over the next two decades and lead to more than 10 million new legal residents in the country.

A long-awaited analysis by the Congressional Budget Office found that the benefits of an increase in legal residents from immigration legislation currently being debated in the Senate - which includes a pathway to citizenship - would outweigh the costs.

The report estimates that in the first decade after the immigration bill is carried out, the net effect of adding millions of additional taxpayers would decrease the federal budget deficit by \$197 billion, even with higher spending on border security and government benefits. Over the next de-

cade, the report found, the deficit reduction would be even greater - an estimated \$700 billion, from 2024 to 2033.

The report was quickly seized on by backers of the bill as a boost to its prospects. Sen. Charles E.

Schumer, D-N.Y., one of the bill's authors, said the report "debunks the idea that immigration reform is anything other than a boon to our economy."

The report came on the same day that Speaker John A. Boehner said that

he would not bring any immigration measure to the floor for a vote unless it had the support of a majority of House Republicans, raising potential new obstacles to congressional approval of a broad immigration overhaul.

As the Senate headed toward votes on amendments in its second week of considering an immigration measure, Boehner tried to put to rest discussion that he would consider pushing through an immigration bill with a combination of Democrats and a minority of receptive Republicans in the House, where conservative Republican sentiment runs strongly against allowing those who entered the country illegally to qualify for legal status.

"I also suggested to our members today that any immigration reform bill that is going to go into law ought to have a majority of both parties' support if we're really serious about making that happen, and so I don't see any way of bringing an immigration bill to the floor that doesn't have a majority support of Republicans," Boehner said at a news conference after meeting with House Republicans.

Boehner's comments, both privately in the closed-door meeting at the Capitol Hill Club and publicly, came as some House Republicans have begun to draw a firm and vocal line in the sand, warning Boehner that his speakership could be at risk if he tries to force through an immigration bill without the support of his conference.

In an interview with World Net Daily radio on Monday, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., said Boehner "should be removed as speaker" if, on immigration, he violates the "Hastert rule" - an unofficial principle named for J. Dennis Hastert, a former Republican speaker who would rarely allow a vote on a bill that did not have the support of a majority of his conference.

Though Boehner has violated the Hastert rule several times this year - to help avert a fiscal showdown, provide relief for victims of Hurricane Sandy and pass the Violence Against Women Act - he explicitly said on Tuesday that he would not take up an immigration bill without the support of a majority of his party. □



Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY.) makes his way to a weekly policy luncheon on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 18, 2013. Congressional budget analysts said Tuesday that legislation to overhaul the nation's immigration laws would cut close to \$1 trillion from the federal deficit over the next two decades and lead to more than 10 million new legal residents in the country.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

Taliban step toward peace talks hailed by U.S.

Continued from front

President Barack Obama called the Taliban's announcement "an important first step toward reconciliation," but cautioned that it was only "a very early step."

"We anticipate there will be a lot of bumps in the road," Obama said at a meeting with President François Hollande of France at the Group of Eight summit meeting in Northern Ireland.

There have been plenty of bumps already. Over the past 18 months, the peace effort has encountered pressure from nearly every quarter at one time or another: President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, the exiled Taliban leadership, the Taliban's patrons in Pakistan, and critics in the United States who have reacted coolly to what they perceive as talking to terrorists.

A pair of Afghan mullahs in black turbans made the Taliban announcement in

a televised address broadcast from Doha, the capital of Qatar. The Taliban's political and military goals "are limited to Afghanistan," said Muhammad Naim, the Taliban spokesman who read the statement.

The Taliban "would not allow anyone to threaten the security of other countries from the soil of Afghanistan," Naim added, and seeks "a political and peaceful solution" to the conflict. The appearance seemed to answer one immediate question hanging over the peace efforts: who was empowered to speak for the Taliban's secretive leader in exile, Mullah Muhammad Omar. U.S. officials said that recent signals had made them sure that the Qatar office was being opened by Mullah Omar's true intermediaries, including the insurgents' stated lead negotiator, Tayeb Agha.

As well, the Taliban's wording Tuesday adhered to previous requirements by U.S. officials in informal

talks in recent weeks, officials said. In particular, the statement represented the beginning of what is hoped will become a public break with al-Qaida, which the Taliban sheltered before the Sept. 11 attacks, the officials said.

"Together, they fulfill the requirement for the Taliban to open a political office in Doha for the purposes of negotiation with the Afghan government," a senior Obama administration official said.

Along with getting the Taliban to disown international terrorist groups, the ultimate goal of the talks, from a Western and Afghan government point of view, is to persuade the Taliban to disarm and to accept the Afghan Constitution. While Western officials have in the past suggested that the constitution can be changed, the Obama administration on Tuesday stressed that accepting the current charter's "protections for women and minorities" was considered a condition of any eventual

peace deal.

In the shorter term, U.S. officials said U.S. envoys are to meet later this week with Taliban representatives in Qatar, and then members of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, which is to represent the government in talks, are to travel to the Persian Gulf emirate to sit down with the insurgents. But the first meetings will probably feature little more than an exchange of agendas, another senior administration official said, cautioning against expectations for the talks to yield substantive results any time soon.

"There is no guarantee that this will happen quickly, if at all," the official said.

Talks between the United States and the Taliban "can help advance the process, but the core of it is going to be negotiations among Afghans and the level of trust on both sides is extremely low, as one would expect," the official said. "So it is going to be a long hard process if indeed it advances significantly at all." □

US House passes far-reaching anti-abortion bill



Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 18, 2013, at House Judiciary Committee hearing to discuss the Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives passed a far-reaching anti-abortion bill that conservatives saw as a milestone in their 40-year campaign against legalized abortion and Democrats condemned as another example of what they see as Republicans' war on women. The legislation, sparked by the murder conviction of a Philadelphia late-term abortion provider, would restrict almost all abortions to the first 20 weeks after conception, defying laws in most states that allow abortions up to when the fetus becomes viable,

usually considered to be around 24 weeks. The legislation lays further groundwork for the ongoing legal battle that abortion foes hope will eventually result in forcing the Supreme Court to reconsider its landmark 1973 decision, *Roe v. Wade*, that made abortion legal. In the short term, though, the bill will go nowhere. The Democratic-controlled Senate will ignore it, and the White House says the president would veto it if it ever reached his desk. The White House said the measure was "an assault on a woman's right to choose." But it was a banner day for social conservatives.

Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, called it "the most important pro-life bill to be considered by the U.S. Congress in the last 10 years." Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called the legislation "yet another Republican attempt to endanger women." Democrats repeatedly pointed out that all 23 Republicans on the chamber's Judiciary Committee that approved the measure last week are men. The Republican leadership moved ahead on the abortion bill after the case of Kermit Gosnell, the Philadelphia abortion doctor who was recently sentenced to life in prison for what prosecutors said was the murder of three babies

delivered alive. Abortion foes said it exemplified the inhumanity of late-term abortions. Some 10 states have passed laws similar to the House bill, and several are facing court challenges. Last month a federal court struck down as unconstitutional Arizona's law. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a New York-based reproductive health research organization that supports abortion rights, 1.3 percent of the 1.2 million abortions in the country in 2009 — about 15,600 — occurred 20 weeks after the fetus was conceived. Supporters of the legislation also contended that fetuses can feel pain after about 20 weeks. Opponents say such findings are inconclusive. □

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FCC nominee points to his lobbying experience

EDWARD WYATT

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's nominee to head the Federal Communications Commission told a Senate committee on Tuesday that his experience as the leader of lobbying groups for the cable television and cellphone industries had convinced him that the agency needs to promote competition over regulation.

The nominee, Tom Wheeler, told the Senate Commerce Committee that the FCC's championing of competition was especially important given Americans' heavy dependence on communications networks in education, public safety and consumer services.

"Competition is a power unto itself that must be encouraged," he said. "Competitive markets produce better outcomes than regulated or uncompetitive markets."

The playing down of the role of regulation could worry Democrats on the committee and advocates of consumer-friendly over-

sight of industries that are growing rapidly - perhaps too fast in recent years for government overseers to keep track of them.

It is his experience in those

services," Wheeler said. "I worked for the ability of competitors to bring services into the home."

Similarly, Wheeler said that his tenure in the 1990s as

ed by the auctions of 1994, wireless was increasingly used in place of wireline, and wireless data turned the phone into a pocket computer," Wheeler said. "All of these developments brought with them new policy challenges," he added, challenges that are no smaller today as wireless becomes the primary method of broadband and voice communication for millions of Americans.

Among the issues the FCC faces is determining whether the wireless phone market is competitive. The agency prepares an annual analysis for Congress on competition in the wireless business.

But in the last three years, the FCC has declined to say outright whether there is adequate competition in the wireless business - which has raised the ire of the wireless industry.

In a filing with the FCC on Monday, for example, Verizon said the FCC's next annual report, due in early 2014, "should correct the analytical errors" in its last analysis. □



Tom Wheeler, President Barack Obama's pick to be the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce Committee on Capitol Hill, in Washington, June 18, 2013.

(Mary F. Calvert for The New York Times)

industries rather than as a regulator, Wheeler said, that provides his primary strengths.

As chief executive of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association in the 1980s, "I fought against the FCC's rules limiting cable's ability to compete with new video

head of the cellular phone trade group, which is now known as CTIA: The Wireless Association, was one in which startup and rapidly growing cellphone competitors were at the forefront of wholesale changes in communications.

"During my tenure, that competition was expand-

Google asks US secret court to lift its gag order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Google on Tuesday sharply challenged the U.S. government's gag order on its Internet surveillance program, citing what it described as a constitutional free speech right to divulge how many requests it receives from the government for data about its customers in the name of national security.

The move came in a legal motion filed in the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and is aimed at mending Google's reputation after it was identified this month as one of nine U.S. Internet companies that gave the National Security Agency access to data on its customers.

Revelations about the program, known as PRISM, by a former NSA contractor has opened a debate about the privacy of American's communications.

The publication of such data requests by the government would answer questions about the number of Google users or accounts affected by U.S. intelligence activities.

But it wouldn't answer more critical questions on how much data is being disclosed, including whether information belonging to Americans has been swept up into investigations on a foreign targets.

"Google's reputation and business has been harmed by the false or misleading reports in the media, and Google's users are concerned by the allegations," the company's motion says.

"Google must respond to such claims with more than generalities." □

Heimlich rescues choking Texas congressman

BOB CHRISTIE

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A Texas congressman who was choking on a piece of popcorn is thanking a fellow Republican from Arizona and a House staffer who is also a doctor for stepping in to help. A spokeswoman for Rep. Ted Poe said the five-term congressman from the state's 2nd District was eating dinner at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington Thursday when he began choking. Poe spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes said Arizona Rep. Matt Salmon was eating nearby and he and

another bystander jumped into action and began doing the Heimlich maneuver to clear Poe's airway.

"They did that for a few minutes and it didn't appear to be dislodging," Salmon spokeswoman Kristine Michalson said Tuesday. Salmon began calling for someone to call the emergency dispatcher and for a doctor.

Hynes said that's when Republican House staffer Dr. Nick Muzin jumped in. As Salmon kept trying to dislodge the popcorn with strong slaps to the back, Muzin did the Heimlich ma-

neuver again and was successful. The events were first reported by the National Review. "He finished up his meal afterward," Hynes said. "He was in good spirits, joking around. He told me that he choked up when he heard the score of the Congressional baseball game, in which the Republicans were being slaughtered by the Democrats."

Muzin is director of coalitions at the House Republican Conference and a licensed physician.

Poe, 64, has served in the House since 2005 and is a former prosecutor and

judge. Salmon, 55, was elected to represent Arizona's 5th District in November. He represented an earlier version of the district for three terms in the 1990s, but ended his tenure in Congress to follow a pledge that he would serve only three terms.

Poe returned to Texas for the weekend and was back in Washington as usual on Monday.

"He's thankful of course there were some good Samaritans around," Hynes said. "The right people in the right place at the right time." □

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US spy chief:

Wall Street bombing foiled by NSA surveillance programs

DONNA CASSATA
KIMBERLY DOZIER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. foiled a plot to bomb the New York Stock Exchange because of the

that gathers U.S. phone records and another that is designed to track the use of U.S.-based Internet servers by foreigners with possible links to terrorism — are critical. But details about

what is next for Snowden, he said, simply, "justice." Snowden fled to Hong Kong and is hiding. In the days after the leaks, House Intelligence committee Chairman Mike

Rogers cited one attack that he said was thwarted by the programs. In the comments of other intelligence officials, that number grew to two, then 10, then dozens. On Tuesday, Alexander said more than 50 attacks were averted because of the surveillance. These included plots against the New York subway system and a Danish newspaper office that had published cartoon depictions of Muhammad. In a new example, Joyce said the NSA was able to identify an extremist in Yemen who was in touch with Khalid Ouazzani in Kansas City, Missouri, enabling authorities to identify co-conspirators and thwart a plot to bomb the New York Stock Exchange.

Ouazzani pleaded guilty in May 2010 in federal court in Missouri to charges of conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization, bank fraud and money laundering. Ouazzani was not charged with

the alleged plot against the stock exchange. Joyce said the arrest was made possible by the Internet surveillance program disclosed by Snowden.

Joyce also said a terrorist financier in San Diego was identified and arrested in October 2007 because of a phone record provided by the NSA.

The individual was making phone calls to a known designated terrorist group overseas, Joyce said. He confirmed under questioning that the calls were to Somalia. Alexander said the Internet program had helped stop 90 percent of the 50-plus plots he cited. He said just over 10 of the plots thwarted had a connection inside the U.S. and most were helped by the review of phone records. Still, little was offered to substantiate claims that the programs have been successful in stopping acts of terrorism that would not have been caught with narrower surveillance. □



National Security Agency (NSA) Director Gen. Keith B. Alexander testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 18, 2013, before the House Intelligence Committee.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

sweeping surveillance programs at the heart of a debate over national security and personal privacy, officials said Tuesday at a rare open hearing on intelligence led by lawmakers sympathetic to the spying. The House Intelligence Committee hearing provided a venue for officials to defend the once-secret programs and did little probing of claims that the collection of people's phone records and Internet usage has disrupted dozens of terrorist plots. Few details were volunteered.

Army Gen. Keith Alexander, director of the National Security Agency, said the two recently disclosed programs — one

them were not closely held within the secretive agency. Alexander said after the hearing that most of the documents accessed by Edward Snowden, a 29-year-old former systems analyst on contract to the NSA, were on a web forum available to many NSA employees. Others were on a site that required a special credential to access. Alexander said investigators are studying how Snowden did that.

He told lawmakers Snowden's leaks have caused "irreversible and significant damage to this nation" and undermined the U.S. relationship with allies.

When Deputy FBI Director Sean Joyce was asked

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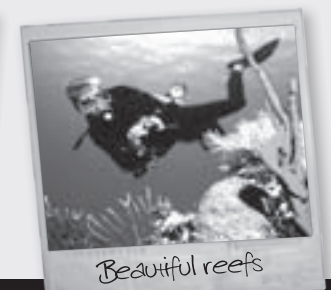
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Brazil:

Protesters clash with police in Sao Paulo

BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Protesters surrounding the city hall of Brazil's biggest city have clashed with police when a small group of demonstrators tried to force their way into the building.

GloboNews television network showed images of protesters in Sao Paulo using metal barriers to smash windows and doors. Municipal guards with shields retreated into the building as they came under attack from some of the demonstrators.

GloboNews says Sao Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad was not in City Hall at the time.

Tuesday's protest was the sixth major demonstration in Sao Paulo since last week.

The protests started with a group incensed about a 10-cent hike in subway and bus fares, the Free Fare Movement, which is mostly composed of students. The demonstrations exploded Monday night, however, after images broadcast nationwide showed police attacking the fare protesters during a rally Thursday in Sao Paulo.

The thousands who have since filled Brazilian cities have largely hailed from the middle class, with many holding up signs complaining about grievances such as poor public safety and knotty bureaucracy. "We're massacred by the government's taxes, yet when we leave home in the morning to go to work, we don't know if we'll make it home alive because of the violence," said Maria Claudia Cardoso, accompanied by her 16-year-old son at a march Monday in Sao Paulo.

"We don't have good schools for our kids. Our hospitals are in awful shape. Corruption is rife. These protests will make history and wake our politicians up to the fact that we're not taking it anymore!"

President Dilma Rousseff, a former leftist guerrilla who was imprisoned and tortured during Brazil's 1964-85 dictatorship, appeared to embrace the protests

walks of life with a central lament: The government provides woeful services despite a large tax burden. Brazilians have long tolerated pervasive corruption, even as millions have moved out of poverty over the past decade.

Many of them have begun to demand more from their government and are angry that billions of dollars in public funds are being

long time since we Brazilians decided to leave our comfort zone to tell our leaders that we're not happy about the way things are going," said Freitas. "We pay too much in taxes and we get bad services in exchange, bad hospitals, bad public education, public transportation is terrible."

Gilberto Carvalho, Rousseff's general secretary,



Protestors gather in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Some of the biggest demonstrations since the end of Brazil's 1964-85 dictatorship have broke out across this continent-sized country, uniting multitudes frustrated by poor transportation, health services, education and security despite a heavy tax burden.

(AP Photo/Nelson Antoine)

Tuesday, even though her government was a prime target.

"Brazil today woke up stronger," she was quoted as saying by a statement released by her office.

"The massive size of yesterday's protests prove the energy of our democracy, the force of the voice of the street and the civility of our population," Rousseff said.

The movement has gathered Brazilians from all

spent to host the World Cup and Olympics while few improvements are made on infrastructure elsewhere.

Just this week, Brazil was playing host to the Confederations Cup soccer tournament, seen as a warm-up to the World Cup.

Maria do Carmo Freitas, a 41-year-old public servant from Brasilia, said she was excited about the protests even though she hadn't taken part.

"I'm loving it. It's been a

said the protests reflect a richer population.

"The impression is that we have overcome some obstacles, but society wants more," Carvalho said.

The office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human rights "urged the Brazilian authorities today to exercise restraint in dealing with spreading social protests in the country and called on demonstrators not to resort to violence in pursuit of their demands." □

Nigerian fighters open fire on school killing nine pupils

HARUNA UMAR
MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)

— Suspected Islamic militants have opened fire on students taking exams at a school in the country's troubled northeast, killing at least nine pupils in the latest violence to wrack the volatile region, witnesses said Tuesday.

Bodies of the children in their school uniforms were brought to the local morgue, according to a hospital official who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information to journalists.

Monday's attack at Ansarudeen Private School in Maiduguri marked the second time in days that suspected radical fighters have attacked schools. The military reported that 13 people, including high school students and teachers, were killed Sunday night during a five-hour shootout when extremists attacked a boarding school in Damaturu, the state capital of Yobe state. A student who survived that attack by hiding under a dormitory bed said dozens of fighters who identified themselves as Boko Haram — which means "Western education is sacrilege" — ordered students to take them to the teachers' quarters, where they opened fire on teachers and students. The student spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. Military spokesman Lt. Eli Lazarus said seven students, two teachers, two soldiers and two militants were killed in the attack and that three soldiers were critically injured. □



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Turkey's defiant PM says police to get more power

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's prime minister on Tuesday brushed aside international criticism over his government's crackdown on widespread demonstrations and vowed to increase the police's powers to deal with the unrest. Meanwhile, more than 90 people were detained in police raids linked to the protests.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's defiant stance appeared aimed at shoring up his conservative base in Turkey, where the rallies have exposed fissures between urban and largely secularist Turks and the more religious classes. But Erdogan's bellicosity has dented his global reputation; EU officials on Tuesday nixed a visit due to some of his comments.

Anti-government demonstrations sprouted across Turkey after May 31, when riot police brutally cracked down on peaceful environmental activists who opposed plans to remove trees and develop Gezi Park, which lies next to Istanbul's famed Taksim Square.

The crackdowns have continued since as protests have spread and attracted a range of groups unhappy with the 10-year rule of Erdogan, whom many believe is trying to gradually impose his religious and conservative views in Turkey, which has long had a

secular democracy.

Four protesters and one police officer have been killed, and Turkey's doctors association said an investigation was underway into the death of a fifth person who was exposed to tear gas. More than 7,800 people have been injured; six are in critical condition and 11 lost their eyesight after being hit by flying objects. Police on Tuesday raided homes and offices in the capital, Ankara, and Istanbul, detaining at least 92 people suspected of involvement in violence. The state-run Anadolu news agency said the suspects were detained for allegedly destroying public property, inciting people to revolt or attacking police.

Addressing lawmakers belonging to his Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, Erdogan declared that riot police had acted with restraint and that their powers would be increased, giving them more leeway in dealing with future demonstrations. "Our security forces put up a successful and extremely patient struggle against the acts of violence by remaining within the limits set by democracy and the law," Erdogan said.

In response to the ongoing confrontations, some protesters have adopted a special maneuver to get their point across: standing still.

The trend was launched by



Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses his lawmakers at parliament, in Ankara, Turkey, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he will increase police powers following a wave of anti-government protests. The announcement came Tuesday as police carried out raids and detained dozens of people suspected of involvement in violence against officers.

(AP Photo)

performance artist Erdem Gunduz, who stood silently for hours in Istanbul's central Taksim Square on Monday night as others joined him and replicated the protest in other cities.

As the numbers swelled to a few hundred, police broke up the demonstration in Taksim late Monday, but by Tuesday evening dozens of protesters could be seen standing motionless in the square.

The United Nations and New York-based Human Rights Watch have both expressed alarm over reports that tear gas canisters and pepper spray were fired directly at demonstrators and into closed spaces, actions that significantly increase the danger posed to the individuals targeted.

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Iraqi suicide bombers hit Baghdad mosque, kill 34

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two suicide bombers targeted a Shiite mosque in Baghdad on Tuesday, one blowing himself up at a nearby checkpoint while the other slipped inside during prayers. The blasts killed 34 people, Iraqi officials said. The coordinated bombings were the latest in a string of attacks to hit Iraq, reviving fears the country is headed back toward the widespread sectarian bloodshed that pushed it to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007.

Two police officers said the first bomber detonated his explosives at a security checkpoint near the mosque in Baghdad's northern Qahira neighbor-



Umm Satta grieves for her slain college student son, Sattar Jabbar, near Habib al-Asadi Shiite mosque in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Two suicide bombers blew themselves up inside and near the Shiite mosque, Iraqi officials said.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

hood in an apparent attempt to distract the authorities. The area is a middle-class, Shiite-majority neighborhood.

Amid the commotion, a second bomber slipped past concrete blast walls and into the mosque, where he blew himself up

while worshippers were performing midday prayers, according to police officials. The bombings also wounded 57 people, the officials said. Most of the casualties were students from the nearby Imam al-Sadiq University for Islamic Studies. Police officials said the university's Shiite students usually perform their midday prayers in the mosque that was hit.

After the blasts, security forces quickly sealed off the area around the simple, unadorned mosque.

Ali Faleh, a university student, said he was inside a stationery shop nearby when he heard a thunderous explosion.

"Everybody ran to the blast site, and I saw the body of a colleague who used to

be in my class," he said. "The aim of today's attack was only to hurt the Shiites who were there to study or pray, not to fight or kill anybody else."

A medic in a nearby hospital confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to media.

Violence has surged in Iraq in recent months, along with sectarian and political tensions. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suicide bombings and attacks against Shiite worshippers are frequently the work of al-Qaida's Iraq arm. Sunni extremists such as al-Qaida consider Shiites to be heretics and want to undermine Iraq's Shiite-led government. □

Syria:

Currency sinks on US plan to arm rebels

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Many exchange shops closed in Damascus on Tuesday, fearing more chaos a day after the Syrian currency plunged to a new record low, reflecting growing fears in the capital following a U.S. decision to arm rebel groups fighting to topple President Bashar Assad's regime. The currency woes add to the embattled president's troubles, and government officials rushed to allay public fears by announcing Damascus' top ally Iran was extending a credit line to make up for market needs. Traders in the capital said a rush to buy U.S. dollars on Monday sent the Syrian pound's value tumbling to 210 to the dollar, compared to 170 just that morning. Many exchange shops closed Tuesday while others opened

their doors without doing business, saying it was difficult to value the pound. The official price of the dollar Tuesday was 99 pounds, according to state news agency SANA, though the widespread black market price is considered to reflect its real value. When Syria's conflict began in early 2011, the dollar was worth 47 pounds. The currency dive followed last week's decision by the Obama administration to arm rebel groups in Syria, deepening U.S. involvement in the more than 2-year civil war which has killed 93,000 people, according to the U.N. The U.S., Britain and France accused Assad's regime of using chemical weapons, which President Barack Obama called a "red line." "Expectations of a stronger U.S. involvement in Syria following the decision to arm

rebels groups was almost certainly the key factor behind the recent drop in the Syrian pound," said Torbjorn Soltvedt, senior analyst at the British risk analysis firm Maplecroft. "The decision reinforced the view that ultimately the Syrian regime will be unable to survive in its current form, despite recent strategic gains," he said, predicting a prolonged stalemate.

Regime forces have been waging a stepped-up offensive in the central Homs province and the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once the country's commercial center. The assaults were launched after troops backed by Hezbollah fighters captured the rebel-held strategic western town of Qusair near the Lebanon border on June 5. Officials rushed to assuage currency fears. □

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Star-studded party for Israeli president's 90th birthday



Israeli President Shimon Peres chats with former US President Bill Clinton during Peres' 90th birthday gala in Jerusalem, Tuesday June 18 2013. At left is singer Barbra Streisand and at right is Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

(AP Photo/ Jim Hollander, pool)

TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli and global leaders, local celebrities and Hollywood superstars celebrated under one roof Tuesday to honor Israeli President Shimon Peres for his upcoming 90th birthday, reflecting world respect for one of the country's peace pioneers. Peres is hosting his annual Presidential Conference that brings together an array of artists, thinkers and leaders to discuss issues relevant to Israel and the world.

Instrumental in building Israel's military in the first days of the state six decades ago, Peres served twice as prime minister and promoted peace between Israel and the Palestinians, sometimes reaching far ahead of his own people. For his role in the landmark interim peace accord in 1993, he received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize along with Israel's then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and then-Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

His tireless campaigning for a peace agreement has won him supporters and

sympathizers around the world. His last five years as Israel's president has also gained him affection at home, absent during much of his political career.

In an event that kicked off the conference Tuesday and marked Peres' birthday, songstress Barbra Streisand sang a prayer in Hebrew and belted out one of her greatest hits, "People," to enthusiastic applause. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was ushered to the stage by a quintet of saxophones.

Leaders and public figures from around the world, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Barack Obama to Bono, sent their good wishes to Peres. His birthday is in August, but organizers felt it would be difficult to bring back such a star-studded, high-powered crowd so soon. The conference, held every June, is doubling as a birthday bash.

Clinton, who on Monday prodded Israelis to hasten to make peace with the Palestinians, stepped away from politics at the two-hour long celebration, choosing instead to poke

fun at Peres' age, calling him "the last living Israeli who knew King David."

Scattered in the audience among Israeli Cabinet ministers and local clergy sat actors Robert De Niro and Sharon Stone. Rwandan President Paul Kagame sat in the front row beside former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, now an international envoy to the Middle East.

The star of the night was Streisand, dressed in a flowing black dress accented with gold jewelry. Streisand sang the Jewish prayer "Avinu Malkeinu," which Peres called "heav-

enly" and gave her a long embrace and two kisses on the cheek. The prayer, which means "our Father, our King" is recited on the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur, a day of fasting and reflection. Streisand said the prayer was meant to "cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth."

Peres, who serves in a largely ceremonial position, was serenaded by local musicians and entertained by dance troupes, one of which intercut its music with inspirational quotes from the nonagenarian leader. □

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Argentina: Cash controls bring bargains, create headaches

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The Brazilian visitors gawk in wonder as they stroll past shop windows along touristy Florida street in the Argentine capital. The jackets, the shoes — they're all so cheap when your purse is stuffed with black-market money. Visitors who turn to the streets rather than the banks to swap their dollars in Argentina are getting a bonanza of extra pesos and can shop much more cheaply than back at home. A leather jacket that costs \$250 in Lima, Peru, can be had for about \$150 in Buenos Aires.

"We find differences in the food, the perfumes, the shoes ... with almost everything," said 27-year-old Edjane Mendes, who was browsing Florida street with her 19-year-old friend Michele Aline. Both are Brazilians studying in Buenos Aires.

The weakening peso has led to a flood of day-trippers and other visitors from neighboring countries into Argentina, which keeps tightening its currency controls in hopes of protecting foreign reserves and reducing the flight of dollars. Argentines who feel their savings are perpetually at risk tend to save in other currencies, and in other countries, whenever they can. Inflation now runs at about 25 percent a year, according to independent economists, while the government is trying to gradually devalue the peso by about 20 percent a year against the dollar. So with their buying power rapidly eroding, Argentines are more eager than ever to hedge their losses by swapping pesos for dollars. The government has responded with a series of measures since late 2011 that have made it nearly impossible to legally obtain dollars at the official rate. But that has only made many Argentines more desperate.

As a result, many evade the formal financial system and buy black-market green-

backs that Argentines euphemistically call "blue dollars." Web sites now report the latest prices, giving everyone a common reference to make trades by. That means anyone entering the country with dollars can find willing buyers wherever they go in Argentina, without having to risk shady deals in dark alleys. This blue-dollar rate briefly topped 10 pesos before

The phenomenon also has had a major impact in border towns and in resort areas such as the ski town of Bariloche, where Brazilian tourists are keeping hotels and ski slopes busy, largely displacing Argentines for whom the country's high-end resorts have become more expensive than trips to the U.S. or Europe. "In these times, it's to their advantage if they come

de Ferrere has been going abroad to do her shopping, taking the bridge over the Uruguay River to find cheaper prices in Concordia, Argentina, than can be found in her hometown of Salto. "Everything's half price," she said, and what's more, Argentine shopkeepers "ask you please to pay with dollars, so in addition to the exchange (rate), they give



Paraguayan shoppers buy products in a shop in the town of Clorinda, Argentina, just across the border from Paraguay. Shoppers who turn to the street rather than the banks to swap their dollars are getting a bonanza of extra Argentine pesos and can shop much more cheaply than back at home due to Argentina's currency controls and black market for US dollars. Taking advantage of the guarani's newfound strength, Paraguayans are rolling by the thousands into the Argentine frontier city of Clorinda to do their shopping.

(AP Photo/Jorge Saenz)

the government stepped in to contain the bleeding, in part by using reserves to increase the supply of dollars circulating inside the country. On Monday, it was holding at 8 pesos, still a 50 percent premium over the official rate of 5.34. But central-bank intervention is a tool the government can only use so often: Already this year, its foreign reserves have fallen by 11 percent to \$38.6 billion.

On the streets of Argentina, the difference between living at one rate and dealing in another is so great that "it seems like living in two countries; yes, it's like another country, somehow living underground," Italian tourist Mario Clemente marveled as he shopped in Buenos Aires.

with dollar bills and change them here," said Bariloche's tourist secretary, Fabian Szewczuk.

Unlike its neighbors, Argentina has no access to foreign lending, given its history of refusing to pay all its sovereign debts and international court judgments. And it has spent heavily to stimulate its economy, fueling inflation. The mix puts immense pressure on the government to maintain dollar reserves to sustain faith in Argentine pesos. But the controls and the resulting currency mismatches are causing headaches for nearby governments, which have had to impose tough medicine on some of their own people as a result.

Uruguayan housewife Sara

you a reduction on the price."

So many of de Ferrere's neighbors were joining her that gasoline sales fell "between 20 and 40 percent" on the Uruguayan side, said the local chamber of commerce secretary, Miguel Feris. Uruguay responded with a "Zero Kilos" program, barring its citizens from bringing back Argentine goods if they've been gone for less than a day. Since then, lines of cars at the border have disappeared, and gas sales have stabilized.

"They don't let you bring absolutely anything," de Ferrere said. "I went to Concordia and bought clothing that I wore and two or three other little things in my purse.□"

Lawsuit filed in Puerto Rico death of U.S. banker

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The widow of a U.S. banking executive slain in a drive-by shooting in Puerto Rico has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the bank's CEO and other high-ranking officials.

The federal lawsuit marks the first time that a potential motive has been given for the high-profile killing. The suit comes two years after Maurice Spagnoletti, an executive vice president at Doral Bank, was repeatedly shot as he drove his Lexus on one of San Juan's busiest highways. New Jersey-based attorney Alan Zegas said in a phone interview Tuesday that the defendants have about a month to respond. Local FBI spokesman Moises Quinones said the agency is still investigating the killing, which police said they believe was professionally orchestrated. No one has been arrested. Puerto Rico-based Doral Financial Corporation rejected the lawsuit and its allegations.

"It is false, frivolous and has absolutely no legal basis," the company said in a statement, adding that it has cooperated with authorities. "(We) are confident that we will prevail against this malicious and reckless action that has no basis."

Marisa Spagnoletti says in the lawsuit filed last week that her husband was investigating what he suspected were improper transactions before he was killed.

"Spagnoletti continually questioned the accounting practices of the firm, as he did not believe the reporting to be accurate," she says.

She also alleges that two days after her husband was killed, as she got ready to fly to New Jersey, a person who worked with Doral security approached her at the San Juan airport and said he knew of a plan to kill her husband and that another bank security official was involved.□



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JETLEV experience takes approximately 45 minutes. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and be a good swimmer to fly. The activity is not suitable for pregnant wom-

en. Minimum height is 4'9" (145 cm), maximum 6'9" (205 cm).

More information on Red Sail Sports and JETLEV can be found at www.redsail-aruba.com. □



Under Full Sail:

Jolly Pirates on the Sea of Matrimony



MALMOK- While the 85 ft teak schooner sailing ship was moored at Boca Catalina, Christian Bosnie and Willemijn Van Hagen celebrated good times aboard the Jolly Pirates with their wedding guests from Holland, local Water Sports friends and fellow band members from Mystical

Connection. With magic and wonder in the trade winds Chris and Willemijn said their "I Do's" and like all starry-eyed couples they pledged their love to each other. In keeping with the Jolly Pirates tradition, the couple exchanged the ship's bright orange life

rings and sealed the deal with a kiss. As the sun set into the horizon in a colorful kaleidoscope of color and with a full ship of friends and family to witness, cups of the ship's signature brew, Pirate's Poison were raised to toast the couples special day. Aye! Aye! With advance notice the



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loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic

honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19



and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees for Distinguished Visitors of Aruba were Paul and Laura Coyle from Rochester, New Hampshire and Harlan and Eva Handler from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Both couples love the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the

weather, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Luzdary Leest representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

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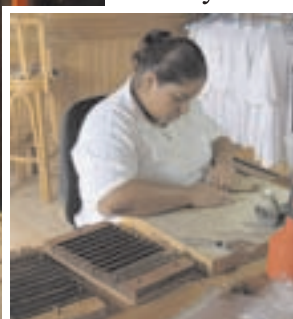


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

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Mets: Harvey pitches 6 hitless innings

PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) -- Matt Harvey finally got some run support. Just enough to fend off another Atlanta comeback. Harvey pitched six hitless innings, John Buck homered and the New York Mets held on for a 4-3 victory over the Braves in the first game of a doubleheader Tuesday.



New York Mets starting pitcher Matt Harvey throws in the fourth inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves, Tuesday, June 18, 2013, in Atlanta.
(AP Photo/Todd Kirkland)

"It's one of those days where it was jumping out nice and I was hitting spots," Harvey said. "Certain days you wake up and you feel good and you can let it go. Today was one of those days."

The Mets had scored only 18 runs in Harvey's previous 10 starts while he was in the game. Largely because of that, he had eight no-decisions in a stretch of nine appearances before a hard-luck 2-1 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals in his last outing, snapping a stretch of 14 consecutive starts without a loss dating to his final appearance of 2012.

Continued on page 18

TOP O'THE MORNING



Ortiz, Red Sox top Rays in rainy twinbill opener

Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz jogs off the field during a rain delay in the fifth inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader against the Tampa Bay Rays in Boston, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Ortiz drove in three runs and the Boston Red Sox opened the day-night doubleheader by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) -- David Ortiz drove in three runs and the Boston Red Sox opened a day-night doubleheader by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 Tuesday in a game delayed nearly three hours by rain. The halt in the fifth inning lasted 2 hours, 59 minutes, prolonging a game that had already been postponed because of rain on April 12. The Red Sox invited fans who stuck out Tuesday's first game to return for the

second for free. The opener ended after the scheduled 7:05 p.m. start time for the nightcap - by that point, with little turnaround time, Game 2 were already wandering into Fenway Park. Highly touted Rays prospect Wil Myers went 0 for 4 in his major league debut. The 22-year-old rookie played right field. Boston led 4-1 when the downpour began. The Red Sox added a run in the sixth on back-to-back triples by Jacoby Ellsbury and Shane Victorino. Ellsbury also doubled and

singled, and he scored all three times he reached base.

Alfredo Aceves (4-1) overcame early control problems and won his third straight start, allowing one run and three hits. He did not return after the delay. The Red Sox had lost four of six, including two of a three-game series at Tampa Bay last week.

Chris Archer (1-3) took the only loss for the Rays last week, and Boston beat him again. He struck out five in 4 2-3 innings, but also walked five while allowing four runs

and five hits.

Archer walked Daniel Nava to load the bases with two outs in the fifth and that was it for him. Josh Lueke came in from the bullpen and had just started warming up when the rain arrived and the game was delayed with Boston leading 4-1.

Almost three hours later, Lueke struck out Jarrod Saltalamacchia to end the inning.

Ortiz hit a two-run single in the third after Ellsbury and Victorino opened the inning with singles. □

Australia, South Korea, Iran qualify for World Cup

SYDNEY (AP) — Having everything to play for on Tuesday, Australia, Iran and South Korea all secured berths at the 2014 World Cup on a dramatic final day of Asian qualifying. They join Japan which was the first nation to qualify.

Australia beat Iraq 1-0, waiting until the 83rd minute before Josh Kennedy headed home the winner that secured second spot in Group B.

Iran booked its place with a disciplined counter-attacking game that produced a 1-0 win at South Korea. While Iran finished top of Group A, South Korea only secured second place by virtue of goal difference after finishing level on points with Uzbekistan, which won 5-1 at home against Qatar.

Uzbekistan scored all five goals in the second half in a storming finish that threatened to tip South Korea out of second spot. But the Uzbeks ran out of time to further boost their goal difference and finished



Australia's Tim Cahill, right, attempts to score on Iraq's Noor Sabri Abbas as Iraq's Aliadnan Kadhim, left, guards the goal during their World Cup soccer Asian qualifying match at the Sydney Olympic Stadium in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

third. They will now go into a playoff against Jordan, which beat Oman 1-0.

Australia began the game knowing a win over Iraq would put them through to a third-straight World Cup appearance, but on a cold and wet night in Sydney, the hosts struggled to break down some resolute defending by a second-string Iraq outfit.

The goal finally came thanks to a bold substitution by Australia coach Holger Osieck, who brought on Kennedy for talisman and regular scorer Tim Cahill.

Mark Bresciano laid on the final pass, chipping into the area to find Kennedy, who calmly headed the ball behind scrambling Iraq goalkeeper Noor Sabri, delighting the 80,532 home fans.

A draw would have left Australia at the mercy of the outcome of the Jordan-Oman game later in the day, with a likely relegation to third place in the group and a further playoff round.

Instead, Kennedy's goal

meant Australia became the third team to book its place for the 2014 tournament after Japan and host Brazil.

"I'm proud of everybody," captain Lucas Neill said. "It's been a really tough campaign. We've stuck at it, showed mental strength. Sorry, it wasn't pretty. But we've beaten what was in front of us and pushed ourselves on to a very exciting tournament."

The drama was even more pronounced in Group A, where South Korea, Iran and Uzbekistan all went into the final group games with hope of direct qualification.

Iran pulled off a memorable win to top the group. The goal came in the 60th minute as King Young-gwon failed to clear a speculative ball forward down Iran's right flank. Reza Ghoochannejad stripped him of possession, sprinted clear and curled a well-placed left-foot shot beyond the reach of the goalkeeper and into the net. □

Harvey, Mets beat braves 4-3

Continued from page 17

Harvey (6-1) didn't allow a hit until Jason Heyward's fluke infield single leading off the seventh, but the right-hander tired in the eighth as the Braves tried to rally for the second straight game. Trailing 4-0, Atlanta scored three runs and had the bases loaded before Bobby Parnell, the fourth Mets pitcher of the inning, fanned Chris Johnson to end the threat. Parnell earned his 10th save with a scoreless ninth.

"I'm frustrated because I ran out of gas," Harvey said. "I shouldn't have gone out there knowing I was probably pretty much done. I gave them a chance to come back and put our team in a position to lose."

"I'm kicking myself for that."

Harvey had a career-high 13 strikeouts and surrendered just three hits,

though he was charged with all three Atlanta runs.

"He has electric stuff," Atlanta's Dan Uggla said. "He was throwing everything for strikes on both sides of the plate. His fast-ball was anywhere from 95 to 100 (mph). You've got to tip your hat to him."

Atlanta opened the five-game series against its NL East rival with the team's 21st comeback win of the season, a rain-delayed 2-1 victory that ended at 1:22 a.m. - less than 12 hours before the start of the start of the day-night double-header.

Dillon Gee took a 1-0 lead to the ninth, but Freddie Freeman won it for the Braves with a two-run homer. Only Kansas City has more come-from-behind victories than the Braves.

"Even though we were down 4-0, we still felt like we had a chance, especially at home." Uggla said. □

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Stanley Cup Game 4 Preview:

Blackhawks need to dig deep to tie series in Boston

BOSTON (AP) -- Marian Hossa is one of the Chicago Blackhawks' top scorers, with three game-winning goals already this postseason.

And then, suddenly, he wasn't in the lineup for a team that needed all the scoring it can get.

Hossa's surprise scratch from Game 3 of the Stanley Cup finals - and the one-word explanation, "upper," for the part of his body that was injured - is part of a long-running cat-and-mouse game NHL teams play on the theory that any information about injuries is a competitive disadvantage.

"I think that's self-explanatory," said Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville, declining to explain why he declined to explain the secrecy surrounding Hossa's injury.

Tuukka Rask stopped 28



Boston Bruins right wing Jaromir Jagr (68), of the Czech Republic, ties up Chicago Blackhawks left wing Bryan Bickell (29) during the third period in Game 3 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Boston, Monday, June 17, 2013. The Bruins won 2-0.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

shots from the depleted Blackhawks to help the Bruins win 2-0 on Monday night and move two wins from their second Stanley Cup title in three seasons.

Game 4 is Wednesday night in Boston before the series returns to Chicago for a fifth game.

Hossa is expected to play in Game 4, Quenneville al-

lowed, but only after making clear that "I'm not going to get exactly what the injury is or where it occurred."

"It's sort of a secret society in the hockey world and in the injury world," Blackhawks forward Dave Bolland said. "You don't want other teams having any injury information at all."

Asked if he had seen Hossa or had a chance to talk to him, Bolland said, "I don't know."

You don't know if you've seen him or talked to him? "I don't know if I've seen him," Bolland repeated with a sly smile.

Hossa's mysterious injury may have been a turning point in Game 3, but it is hardly unusual in the secretive world of hockey injuries. Players and coaches say they just don't talk about what's hurting, partly because they don't

want to seem weak in a sport where they hit each other for a living.

But mostly, they don't want let the other team know where to aim.

"If I'm going out to battle and I have an injury to any part of my body, I don't want the other side to know what it is," Bruins forward Shawn Thornton said. Injury information can also help the opponent strategize. Quenneville was so concerned about giving the Bruins advance notice of even a few minutes that he didn't let substitute Ben Smith skate in the warmup even though there was a chance he would need to play.

"I just didn't want to tip our hand that there's something going on," the coach said.

"Ben was ready. I knew he was doing everything," Quenneville said. □

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Confederations Cup: Brazil seeks to take advantage of desperate Mexico

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

FORTALEZA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil wants to use Mexico's desperation to its advantage when the teams meet in the Confederations Cup on Wednesday.

ing up spaces for Brazil to counterattack and move closer to securing a spot in the next round.

"I'm sure that Mexico will have to go for the victory and it will definitely be good for us," Brazil striker

match in Group A.

"No matter which team we play, we will always try to win," Mexico coach Jose Manuel de la Torre said. "We know it's going to be hard, but we will always be prepared."



Brazil's player Hulk smiles during a press conference in Fortaleza, Brazil, Tuesday, June 18, 2013. Brazil will face Mexico at the soccer Confederations Cup on June 19.

(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

While Brazil opened with a convincing win over Japan, Mexico lost to Italy and needs a good result against the hosts to keep alive its hopes of advancing in the World Cup warm-up tournament.

Brazilian players are hoping the Mexicans come out attacking to try for victory at the Arena Castelao, open-

Hulk said Tuesday. "We know that they are a team with a lot of quality, but hopefully we can take advantage that they are in a more difficult situation."

Another defeat will virtually eliminate the Mexicans from the eight-team tournament of continental champions. Mexico will play Japan in its final

Brazil, meanwhile, can virtually secure a spot in the semifinals if it wins its second straight match in the World Cup warm-up competition. Brazil's final match is against Italy.

"It's our obligation to win this match because we know it would make it easier for us to advance," Brazil defender David Luiz said.

"Everybody knows that the final group match against Italy will be more difficult because it's a team with four world titles and with a lot of experienced players. That means that this match against Mexico is really important."

The Brazilians acknowledge that it won't be an easy task getting past a Mexican team which has done well against Brazil recently. Mexico has won seven of the last 14 matches against the five-time world champions, including two of the last three. The last match was an especially disappointing loss at the London Olympics final last year, when Brazil was trying to win its first gold medal in football.

"This shows that Mexico has the ability to do it," De la Torre said.

"They players know that they can do it and this is the right stage to do it again."

Eight Mexicans from this Confederations Cup squad were in that Olympic team, including Giovani dos Santos. Six Brazilians are back with the Selecao, including Neymar, Oscar, Thiago Silva and Hulk.

"That was a very tough loss for us because everybody in Brazil was hopeful that we would finally win the gold medal," Hulk said. □

Spain beats Italy 4-2 to win Euro Under-21 finals

JEREMY LAST
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thiago Alcantara scored a first-half hat trick as Spain turned on the style to beat Italy 4-2 on Tuesday and win the European Under-21 championship for a second consecutive time.

Italy started as the brighter side at Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium but the Spanish players, captained by Thiago, soon gained control and took the lead after just six minutes.

They never looked back. Spain's Under21s went on to retain their title, just as the senior side had retained its title as European champions in 2012 — and now hopes to repeat the same feat at next year's World Cup in Brazil.

"We are very happy now, not only with the win but also with the performance and the personality we showed. We are very proud of this," Spain coach Julen Lopetegui said. "We are very proud of this."

"We think the most important thing is the players' belief in the team. They have quality but if they don't believe in the team it's very difficult."

Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata stormed past the Italy defenders down the left and Thiago headed home from close range. Italy hit back four minutes later when Ciro Immobile chipped over flailing Spanish goalkeeper David de Gea.

But 15 minutes before the interval, Thiago restored Spain's lead after chesting down a cross by Koke.

The Barcelona midfielder brought up his hat trick in the 38th minute, this time from the penalty spot after Giulio Donati brought down Christian Tello in the box.

Italy appeared to have regained its composure after the break and Lorenzo Insigne created a pair of opportunities in the first five minutes, including an Alessandro Florenzi half volley which flew just over the crossbar. □

Venus Williams pulls out of Wimbledon, citing back

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

After 16 consecutive years of always showing up at Wimbledon, winning five titles along the way, Venus Williams pulled out of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament on Tuesday, citing a lower back injury. Williams, who turned 33 on Monday, never had missed Wimbledon since making her debut there in 1997, although she lost in the first round a year ago. She won the singles trophy — it happens to be called the Venus Rosewater Dish — in 2000-01, 2005 and 2007-08, to go with two more major championships at the U.S.

Open in 2000-01.

But Williams has been dealing with a bad back for a while, playing only three matches in the last two-plus months.

She was clearly hampered by the injury during a three-set, three-hour loss to 40th-ranked Urszula Radwanska of Poland in the first round of the French Open last month, then cited her back when she and younger sister Serena withdrew from the doubles competition in Paris.

The older Williams said after the singles loss at Roland Garros — her first opening-round exit there in a dozen years — that the inflamma-



Venus Williams reacts at Roland Garros stadium in Paris. Williams has pulled out of Wimbledon because of a lower back, her agent Carlos Fleming said, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

tion in her back made it painful to serve hard, limiting one of the best parts of her game.

Once ranked No. 1, Williams is currently No. 34. Still learning to live as a professional athlete with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease, Sjogren's syndrome, she has two first-round losses in the past four Grand Slam tournaments. That includes her defeat at Wimbledon last year, the first time she'd left a major championship that early since she lost in the first round of the Australian Open in 2006.

"With what I've gone through, it's not easy. □

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Stoda Column:

Signs suggest Woods won't catch Nicklaus' record of 18 majors



File photo shows Jack Nicklaus in action in tournament play.

(Handout Photo)

Greg Stoda

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.

-- Tiger Woods is the best golfer in the world, and not just because the rankings say so.

He is.

He still has more skills and can hit more brilliant shots than anyone in the sport, which is why he has won four times this year.

But he isn't the best golfer in the world when it comes to winning major championships, even though his 14 victories in such events are far more than any of his contemporaries has accumulated.

Not anymore, he isn't.

And that's why -- for the first time since it became a subject of serious discussion quite a while ago -- it's my guess that Woods won't catch Jack Nicklaus' career record of 18 major championship titles.

This isn't some knee-jerk reaction to Woods' mediocre showing in the just-completed U.S. Open at Merion, where he stretched his winless skid to five years in the game's headline events. Woods has endured injuries and

surgeries and absences, sure, and has been in contention several times along the way during this prolonged period.

But five years isn't a slump; it's a trend.

Woods' most recent win in a major at the 2008 U.S. Open seems forever ago. It almost has reached the point at which a Woods victory in a major now would be more surprising than another of his failures to win one.

There have been 18 different winners of the 20 majors conducted since Woods last held the trophy as champion in one (Padraig Harrington and Rory McIlroy are the only players to win twice). And there have been far more first-time winners in those majors than there have been guys who had been there before.

Woods, in other words, these days is swimming in waters deeper and more dangerous than at any time in his career.

The fear factor once wielded by Woods -- and by Nicklaus, too -- as a sort of 15th club in the bag is diminished, if not gone altogether. Woods doesn't cut nearly as imposing a figure as he used to in the majors, because recently he has demonstrated himself to be so beatable in them.

His weekend scoring in those events is especially weak. He isn't the closer he was in his prime, and, in fact, hasn't given himself much opportunity to work from the lead.

"It's the putting at the majors," NBC analyst Johnny Miller said during the U.S. Open telecast. "For some reason, he's not making the putts like he does at regular Tour events. Maybe

that's part of being his age (37)." Or maybe it's the pressure accompanying Woods every time he tees it up in a major, because the Nicklaus story line is ever present in a manner it isn't at, say, the Farmers Insurance Open or the Cadillac Championship or the Arnold Palmer Invitational or The Players. Those happen to be events Woods has won this year.

But he lately has looked more ponderous than positive at a majors venue.

It almost seems as though Woods is increasingly aware of the task he faces

in pursuit of Nicklaus' mark, and is less sure of himself under that particular gun. Nicklaus won four majors after his 37th birthday, by the way. That's what Woods has to do to catch Nicklaus in the record books for majors won. Put another way, it means Woods, starting now, has to have the career Phil Mickelson -- long his most formidable rival -- has had with four major wins.

Yikes!

Woods, of course, will always have the Masters at Augusta National, where he has won four times and

should rank among the favorites to win for another decade. But he's winless even on those grounds since 2005, which, again, seems more a trend than a slump. Meanwhile, assignments at the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship figure to get more difficult, not less so, for Woods as the years pass.

Can he do what Nicklaus did from the same age?

"Obviously, the older he gets and if he doesn't win, it makes my record move out further," Nicklaus said at the Masters two months ago. □

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Frozen Sun

By: **Dr. Carlos Viana**

Imagine an unmoving sun, frozen exactly above you in the sky. "Solstice" is derived from two Latin words: "sol" meaning sun, and "sistere," to cause to stand still. This is because in the Northern hemisphere, as the summer solstice approaches, the noonday sun rises higher and higher in the sky on each successive day. On the day of the solstice, it raises an imperceptible amount, compared to the day before. In this sense, it "stands still."

This year June 21 marks the beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere and simultaneously heralds the beginning of winter in the southern hemisphere. The summer solstice is the longest day of the year, respectively, in the sense that the length of time elapsed between sunrise and sunset on this day is a maximum for the year.

In pre-historic times, summer was a joyous time of the year for those indigenous people who lived in the northern latitudes. The snow had disappeared; the ground had thawed out; warm temperatures had returned; flowers were blooming; leaves had returned to the deciduous trees. Some herbs could be harvested, for medicinal and other uses. Food was easier to find. The crops had already been planted and would be harvested in the months to come. Although many months of warm/hot weather remained before the fall, they noticed that the days were beginning to

shorten, so that the return of the cold season was inevitable.

As a Medical Anthropologist I realize the only full moon in June is called the Honey Moon. Tradition holds that this is the best time to harvest honey from the hives.

This time of year, between the planting and harvesting of the crops, was the traditional month for weddings. This is because many ancient peoples believed that the sexual union of the Goddess and God occurred in early May. Since it was unlucky to compete with the deities, many couples delayed their weddings until June.

Interestingly, June remains a favorite month for marriage today. In some traditions, "newly wed couples were fed dishes and beverages that featured honey for the first month of their married life to encourage love and fertility. The surviving vestige of this tradition lives on in the name given to the holiday immediately after the ceremony: The Honeymoon.

Since pre-history all over the world people have been celebrating this important day. In the People's Republic of China summer solstice ceremony has always celebrated the earth, the feminine, and the yin forces. Since yin energy is dark and cold, bonfires are lit to support this cold energy. Fascinatingly, bonfires are part of the summer solstice ceremonies all over the world. Shamanism, the

first religion of the world provides identical ceremonies universally.

In Peru, the Incas raised stone pillars, which at the solstice cast no shadow. It was at this time they believed, that the sun god had descended upon them and "sat upon the pillar." In Europe, many megalithic sites also have alignments marking the summer solstice, the most famous being the "Heel Stone" alignment at Stonehenge when the sun appears to "sit" atop the stone. Though a Christian myth now surrounds the stone and tries to explain the name by associating it to a friar, the obvious explanation is that "Heel" is a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon Hel, at one time meaning sun, and giving rise to the modern German "hell," or bright. Likewise we find similar words for "sun" such as hayil in old Welsh, and helios in Greek. At the famed Rollright Stones, we find a curious tradition that holds that at each summer solstice, the populace must go the largest of the stones, the King stone, and hold a feast there.

After this, a nearby tree known, as the Witch will be cut, which is said to run with a red, blood-like sap. This in turn will cause the "head" of the King stone to turn round. Taken literally, one may find this a bit confusing, but when one applies the theology of pagan lore the meaning becomes clear. At the time of the solstice, the old deity



of the year, symbolized by the tree is ceremonially cut down. The turning of the King stone's head could be said to demonstrate the turning of the wheel, pointing the community towards a new direction and foreshadowing the eventual changeover of the seasons. Around the world, many ancient sites are associated with the solstice in similar fashion, having long since become the focus of local fairs, festivals, or surrounded with their own myths and folklore.

In keeping with this tradition, this summer make your own commitment to the season. Journey to a gathering, make new friends, reaffirm with the old. Dance and sing and share in the glory of the sun, knowing full well that season's change, and soon the winter will come. Start your own family traditions if you have none, host a reunion, and reconnect with community. Make a commitment to renew and celebrate yourself, improving your health by beginning

a natural health program. Mark the turning of the cycle. Make it a high point of your year. Happy be the person the sun shines on.

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Poetry finally joining e-book revolution

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Over the past two years, publishers have been steadily filling one of the largest gaps in the e-book catalogue — poetry. Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg, Langston Hughes and Wallace Stevens have been among the poets whose work recently became available in electronic format. And Random House Inc., W.W. Norton and several other publishers now routinely release new books in both print and digital versions, including last month's Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry, Sharon Olds' "Stag's Leap."

"In the spring of 2010, we actually formed a team to focus on books that were complicated to make into e-books, like poetry and illustrated nonfiction," says Liisa McCloy-Kelley, Random House Inc.'s vice president and director of e-book production, strategy and operations. "Over the past 20 months, we really shifted into production."

The problem had been how to transfer a poem from paper to screen without either breaking a line up — a primal violation of the art form — or making the font size too small to read. It's unlikely that publishers can design a perfect solution, but they have managed to find acceptable compromises. In part, they credit advances in technology

that make it easier to keep the original look intact. They also cite a technique long used in print.

The hanging indent.

The poet's worst fear is for a line to break up randomly, ruining the rhythm and mood of the verse. But publishers and poets have been agreeable to ending the line at a specific word, then creating a second, indented line, alerting the reader that the train of thought belongs with the line above. For instance, here are the first two lines of Olds' poem "Love," as they appear in the hardcover edition:

I had thought it was something we were in. I had thought we were in it that day, in the capital

Here is how they look on an iPad 3:
I had thought it was something we were in. I had thought we were in it that day, in the capital
Poetry e-sales are a tiny subset of poetry sales, a perennial subset in publishing. But for publishers, and poets, it's less about commerce than accessibility. Olds says she doesn't have a lot of interest in e-books and has not seen the electronic edition of "Stag's Leap," but that she "certainly respected the fact that readers like to read in different ways." Poet Philip Levine allowed such collections as the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Simple Truth" to be digi-

tized, even though he also has little personal interest in e-books.

"I don't think the people who would buy an e-book of one of my books, or one of (W.S.) Merwin's books would want it other than what it's supposed to look like," Levine said.

Part of the challenge is the devices themselves, with screens varying in size and feel from Apple's iPad touchscreen to such smaller, standalone devices as Amazon.com's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook. The e-book editions for Random House and other publishers will commonly include a reader's note that suggests the proper font size for a given device.

Some works are especially challenging, like Anne Carson's collection "Red Doc," in which poems begins at various points on a given page. Random House decided on a fixed format, according to McCloy-Kelley, who says that the text "cannot be enlarged without a pinch and zoom," meaning it can only be changed on a touchscreen. The verse of the late Greek poet C.P. Cavafy, who sometimes used extra spaces between words, proved so difficult to set accurately that English-language translator Daniel Mendelsohn settled for an e-book edition admittedly much different than what appeared on paper.

"You have to accommo-

date to a new medium in order to survive," says Mendelsohn, an award-winning author and critic. "I take the long view and say, 'It was ever thus.' When the Greek tragedies were first written down, the lines were written straight across the page, with no distinction of different speakers and no stage directions.

Now, you obviously want to identify the speakers. The original way is not necessarily the ideal."

Smaller presses have cited limited budgets as a deterrent to digitizing. But a top poetry publisher, Copper Canyon Press, last year began an e-book program funded by a grant from the Paul G. Allen Foundation. □

Survey: Many Americans say 'Big Brother' is here

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's little wonder why George Orwell's novel "1984" is seeing a resurgence in sales. More than half of Americans polled in a survey released Thursday said they agreed with the statement "We are really in the era of Big Brother."

The survey from the University of Southern California was conducted last year, before recent revelations of large-scale, secret government surveillance programs. Yet it still found that some 35 percent of respondents agreed that "There is no privacy, get over it."

A growing number of Internet users said they are concerned about the government checking on their online activities, according to the survey. But even more people were worried about businesses doing the

same.

The USC Annenberg School's Center for the Digital Future has polled more than 2,000 U.S. households about their Internet and technology use each year, with the exception of 2011, since 1999.

Forty-three percent of Internet users said they are concerned about the government checking what they do online, up from 38 percent in 2010. But 57 percent said they were worried about private companies doing the same thing — up from 48 percent in the earlier study.

A 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center found that almost three-quarters of Americans are concerned that businesses are collecting too much information about people like them, while 64 percent had the same worry about the government. □

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AT&T to introduce solar-powered charging stations

DIANE CARDWELL

© 2013 New York Times

As keeping the mobile life going becomes ever more important - both to wireless customers and the providers who serve them - AT&T says it has a new way to keep New Yorkers connected.

Starting Tuesday, 25 solar-powered charging stations will sprout in parks, beaches and other outdoor spaces in the five boroughs, part of a pilot project from the wireless provider in partnership with the city. The stations - 12.5-foot steel poles with three petal-shaped solar panels fanning out on top - can accommodate up to six devices at a time, with dedicated ports for iPhones, Androids, BlackBerrys and standard USB charging cables.

Designed by a Brooklyn-based firm, Pensa, with solar technology from Goal Zero, a mobile solar startup, they are to remain in place in spots like Union Square Park, Metrotech Plaza and Rockaway Beach for three to four weeks at a time until

October. If successful, AT&T could expand to other cities. The project will cost \$300,000 to \$500,000.

"We view this as a commitment to being a part of the New York community as a corporate citizen but also as a way for New Yorkers to continue to engage with their technology as they continue to consume more and more data," said Marissa Shorenstein, president of AT&T's New York division. It is also good for the company's bottom line. The city has more mobile customers than in any other market, and executives, who have promoted use of their network by providing free wireless in subways and at parks and cultural events, realized there was a need for more frequent charging.

And it is the biggest area of growth for the major telecommunications companies, said Eddie Hold, vice president of the Connected Intelligence unit at NPD Group, a market research firm.

"People are making less



Marc Claycomb plugs his phone into an AT&T solar-powered mobile charging station in New York, June 11, 2013. The portable chargers for wireless devices will rotate among areas throughout New York until October.

(Michael Nagle for The New York Times)

phone calls than they've made before and more importantly the newer generation of people are really not making many phone calls," he said. "To make money out of data services the telecom companies need to convince you to connect as many devices as possible. The more you

connect, the more data you use, the more money they make."

The spark for the project came after Hurricane Sandy, when AT&T supplied diesel generators and cell towers on wheels to hard-hit neighborhoods in the five boroughs.

Working with Goal Zero,

which makes portable solar chargers, and Pensa, which had been experimenting with creating stationary street chargers, the company won approval this spring from the city Parks Department to test them. They will rotate locations - including Orchard Beach in the Bronx, Governors Island, Pier 59 in Hudson River Park, Coney Island, the Staten Island Zoo and several cultural events.

In creating and testing the stations, said Chris Abbruzzese, vice president for marketing at Goal Zero, they found that consumers are aware of exactly how much of a charge they need to power a phone or tablet for, say, a commute home.

Three 15-watt panels and a 168-watt-hour lithium ion battery pack can keep the stations operating through the night or five days without sunshine. The stations will allow a user to fill a smartphone in two hours, or grab a 30 percent charge in 30 minutes. □

Global mobile competition shifts focus to software design

NICK BILTON

© 2013 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Last week, Timothy D. Cook, Apple's chief executive, stood on stage at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference without a new version of the iPhone or the iPad or some new device. After showing off new laptop computers and a new, cylindrical Mac Pro, Cook and other Apple executives spent the rest of their two-hour keynote address discussing the features of Apple's latest mobile operating system, iOS 7. With the image of a flattened

smartphone interface with thin typography on a screen in the background, Cook proudly noted, "This is the biggest change to iOS since the introduction of the iPhone."

How does he figure that? Cook's bold claim was based on something that is well understood in tech circles but is easily overlooked by consumers. It is the design of the software, far more than the look and feel of the device itself, that allows a company to leap over its competitors.

Hardware features like processing speed or screen

resolution or even how well a camera works offer only fleeting advantages in the constant competition among smartphone manufacturers. And with more than 1 billion smartphones in the world today, many of them with the same rectangular design meant to fit in your hand yet large enough to be used as a phone, it is hard to imagine a breakthrough in their general look.

But changes to the software are limited only by the skill and creativity of a company's engineers and designers, and are not as

easily mimicked since they appeal to softer notions like "experience" rather than speed or weight.

Designers at Apple, Microsoft and Google appear to have been keenly aware of that when they worked on the latest versions of their mobile operating systems, experimenting with ways of making software that are unique yet as intuitive as a road sign. "I have my home, I have my office and I now I have my phone interface," said Paola Antonelli, senior curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"When you turn a smartphone off it is an enigmatic monolith; it's the interface that not only animates it but gives it meaning."

Antonelli said she hoped to one day include iOS 7 in MoMA's design collection. In the first quarter of 2013, Windows Phone nudged BlackBerry to become the third most popular phone operating system globally, according to a report by IDC, a market research firm. Microsoft shipped 7 million Windows Phone 7 devices in the first quarter, compared with 6.3 million BlackBerry devices. □

Waiting for word from Bernanke, US stock markets surge up higher

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's all about the Fed. Still.

U.S. stocks moved higher Tuesday, helped by news of a pickup in home building and low inflation. But the Federal Reserve loomed large, with investors trying to guess what the central bank will say Wednesday about how long it plans to keep stimulus programs in place. For many, the market was in a holding pattern as investors waited for Wednesday's announcement.

The market's gains were steady and broad. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 12.77 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,651.81. All 10 of its sectors rose, led by industrial and telecommunications companies. The Russell 2000, an index of smaller companies, closed at a record high but fell just shy of the 1,000-point milestone. Tuesday's wait-and-see vibe came from a familiar template. The Fed has had an outsized effect on the stock market in recent weeks, with the major indexes getting yanked back and forth as investors try to guess how long the central bank will keep supporting the U.S. economy. Some investors say it's troubling that the market is relying more on the central bank for direction than economic fundamentals. The latest turning point was May 22, when Fed Chair-

man Ben Bernanke startled markets by announcing that the central bank could soon pull back on its bond-buying program if the economy improves.

"Here we are again," said Gregg Fisher, founder and chief investment officer of Gerstein Fisher, a financial advisory firm in New York. "We don't know what the actions will be. We're all trying to figure that out."



Trader Edward Landi check a screen in a booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Global stock markets traded fitfully Tuesday June 18, 2013 as investors watched for signs of a possible change in U.S. stimulus efforts by the Federal Reserve. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The Fed's role in the market has swelled since the 2008 financial crisis. The central bank, which is best known for helping set interest rates, has taken an increasingly bigger role in trying to amp up the economy. Its bond-buying program is meant to keep interest rates low, which can encourage borrowing and drive investors into the stock market. The Fed's purchases have

swollen its portfolio to \$3.4 trillion, a four-fold increase since before the crisis.

"The game is different from what it used to be," said Mark Spellman, portfolio manager for Value Line Funds, a mutual fund company in New York. "It's not just, 'Is the Fed going to raise (its benchmark interest rate) up or down?' It's 'Is the Fed going to keep buying \$85 billion worth of

bonds each month?'" Analysts predicted that Bernanke would use his Wednesday news conference to cast a reassuring tone and make it clear that the Fed won't pull back on any of its programs until it's sure the economy can handle it. He's also likely to drop more hints about when the Fed could start trimming its stimulus programs. □

New campaign from Marriott aims for younger generation

JANE L. LEVERE

© 2013 New York Times

Aiming to attract younger travelers, Marriott International is introducing a new advertising and branding campaign for Marriott Hotels and Resorts, its largest brand.

The campaign is the result of "significant learnings we have had around consumers and how they have evolved," said Mara Hannula, vice president for global marketing of Marriott Hotels. "We haven't seen any other hotel brand capturing younger travelers in a very authoritative way. We see this is as a big opportunity for Marriott."

The campaign, named "Travel Brilliantly," is directed at frequent business travelers who are part of Generation X and Generation Y, Hannula said. Members of these generations include people born from the early 1960s to the late 1970s and those born from the 1980s to the 1990s. The brand's previous advertising strategy did not focus on them.

Hannula, who estimated that by 2018 half of all frequent business travelers would be members of Generation Y, also called the millennials, described younger travelers as mobile and global.

"They demand style and design. Technology is central to their lifestyle. They seamlessly blend work and play," she said.

To reach this market, the campaign includes a commercial, in 30-second and 60-second versions, that will go online Monday on websites like Hulu, Mashable and Delta.com. It was shot at the Bangkok Marriott Sukhumvit and Rayong Marriott Resort and Spa, also in Thailand, and features travelers in a plane and taxi, checking into a hotel, attending a meeting there and swimming.

The voice-over on the shorter commercial says, "This is not a hotel. It's an idea that travel should be brilliant. The promise of spaces as expansive as your imagination. This is not

business as usual, it's a new take on taking a meeting.

A new way to inspire, create and, yes, dream. Because it's not only about where you're staying, it's about where you're going. Marriott, travel brilliantly."

The commercial will start running on mobile devices through Millennial Media on July 15. It will begin to run on TV channels like ESPN, Comedy Central and the Travel Channel, as well as on shows like "Jimmy Kimmel Live," the week of Sept. 2. Advertising will also run overseas and on the brand's social media channels. In addition, the brand is running digital and mobile advertising with Wired and Fast Co., and sponsoring a new travel page on Fast Co.'s website.

The campaign is the brand's first in two years and the first Marriott campaign done by the New York office of Grey Worldwide, a unit of WPP. Marriott Hotels and Resorts previously worked with McGarry Bowen, part of the Dentsu Network unit of Dentsu. In addition to television, digital, print and mobile advertisements, the campaign includes a new website and logo and a shortened name for the brand, now called Marriott Hotels.

The 56-year-old brand is the flagship of Marriott International. It has 500 hotels in 60 countries out of 3,800 hotels for Marriott International. Almost 70 percent of Marriott Hotels are in the United States, while 40 percent of the brand's revenue is generated by meetings. The brand's new website offers videos in which Marriott executives explain new initiatives - some already put in place, others in the works - in lobby and guest-room design and dining and meeting services. The site also asks visitors to submit their travel ideas and vote for the ones they think are most creative, as part of a "co-creation" program running through September.

Grey also redesigned the brand's logo. □

Chrysler agrees to recall of Jeeps

DEE-ANN

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler avoided a showdown with government safety regulators Tuesday, agreeing to recall 2.7 million older Jeep Grand Cherokee and Liberty SUVs that could be at risk of a fuel tank fire.

Earlier this month the company defiantly refused the government's request to recall the Jeeps. But Chrysler now says it will go ahead with the recall after getting

DURBIN

calls from concerned customers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration contended that the Jeep's gas tank could rupture if hit from the rear, causing a fire. NHTSA said 51 people had died in fiery crashes in Jeeps with gas tanks positioned behind the rear axle.

The recall covers Jeep Grand Cherokees from model years 1993 through 2004 and Jeep Libertys from 2002 through 2007.

Chrysler said Tuesday that dealers will inspect the vehicles and install trailer hitches to protect the gas tanks. The company said vehicles without hitches will get them, as will those with broken hitches or hitches that aren't from Chrysler.

In a statement, Chrysler maintained that the vehicles aren't defective, despite prior statements to the contrary from NHTSA. Chrysler wouldn't say how much the trailer hitches would cost. □

The Beige Book:

Here's what investors will watch for today from the Fed

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

What the world hopes to hear Wednesday from the Federal Reserve can be summed up in one word: clarity.

Chairman Ben Bernanke will be pressed to settle the wave of confusion and speculation that's consumed investors since he spoke to Congress last month about the Fed's drive to keep long-term interest rates at record lows. Would the Fed scale back its \$85 billion-a-month in bond purchases within "the next few meetings," as he suggested to Congress at one point? Or does the job market remain too weak for the Fed to slow its stimulus, as Bernanke said at another point?

The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to hold down long-term loan rates to induce Americans to borrow and spend and invest in the stock market. Ultra-low rates are credited with helping fuel a housing comeback, support economic growth, drive stocks to record highs and restore the wealth America lost to the recession.

Conflicting statements from other Fed officials have further clouded the outlook for the bond-buying program. That's why the pressure for the Fed to clarify its message has intensified in recent weeks.

Here's what to look for from each of four key events Wednesday: a statement the Fed will issue when its two-day meeting ends; the Fed's updated economic outlook; Bernanke's news conference; and the reaction of investors:

FED STATEMENT

A big question is whether the Fed will revise the stance it's taken in the statements issued after its most recent policy meetings: That it will continue to buy \$85 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bonds — and that its bond purchases will continue until the outlook for the job market "has improved substantially."

The Fed has not defined "substantially." And Bernanke has stressed that the Fed could increase or reduce its bond purchases at any time depending on the economic outlook. He's also said that even after the Fed has begun to curtail the purchases, it could reverse course and step up its bond buying if it felt the economy needed more support.

Almost no one expects the Fed to announce that it will start reducing its bond purchases immediately. But it might specify what it means by a substantial improvement in the job market. Investors could then monitor the monthly employment report to see

whether the job market is meeting the Fed's benchmark for substantial improvement.

The statement is expected to repeat the Fed's commitment to keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low near zero. The benchmark short-term rate has remained at that level since late 2008, after the fi-

would be seen as a signal that it thinks the economy can now manage with less stimulus. The likely conclusion: That the Fed is moving closer to reducing its bond purchases.

Though that conclusion would upset some investors, it would amount to a vote of confidence in the U.S. economy.



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Budget Committee. The financial world is looking to Bernanke the Week of June 17, 2013, to clarify the Fed's timetable on economic stimulus.
(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

each year when the central bank updates its economic outlook, based on the individual forecasts of 19 Fed officials. If the Fed downgrades its outlook for growth and employment, it would suggest that officials think a still-weak economy continues to need substantial Fed stimulus. Investors would likely conclude that the Fed won't scale back its bond purchases soon.

If, on the other hand, the Fed upgrades its outlook, it

2014, the Fed envisioned the rate between 6.7 percent and 7 percent.

BERNANKE NEWS CONFERENCE

The day's major event is Bernanke's session with reporters. And the question is how far he'll go to define a substantial improvement in the job market and to clarify the Fed's timetable for slowing its bond purchases. However he does it, the chairman will surely ad-

dress the uncertainty created by the mixed messages he sent in his congressional testimony last month.

Bernanke almost certainly won't say precisely when the Fed will start to slow its bond purchases. Economists generally think the scaling back could begin in September or, if not then, by December. Bernanke might hint as much, without explicitly saying so, in his news conference.

He may also try to ease investors' fears by spelling out the kind of improvement in the job market the Fed will want to see before it starts trimming its bond purchases. And he'll also likely stress the Fed's continued flexibility even after it starts to pull back: It could decide to taper or expand the bond purchases — or any other Fed program — at any time depending on the economy's health.

INVESTORS' REACTION

Global financial markets are hoping for a signal that no pullback in the Fed's economic support is imminent. If Bernanke manages to reassure them, the market reaction may be muted.

If, on the other hand, the Fed's message is that it will start scaling back its stimulus as soon as September, investors might send stock and bond prices sinking and interest rates rising. □

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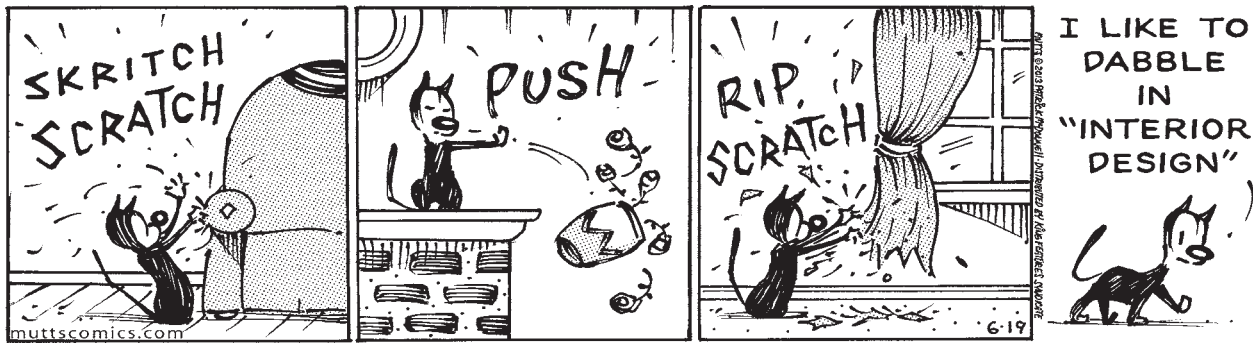
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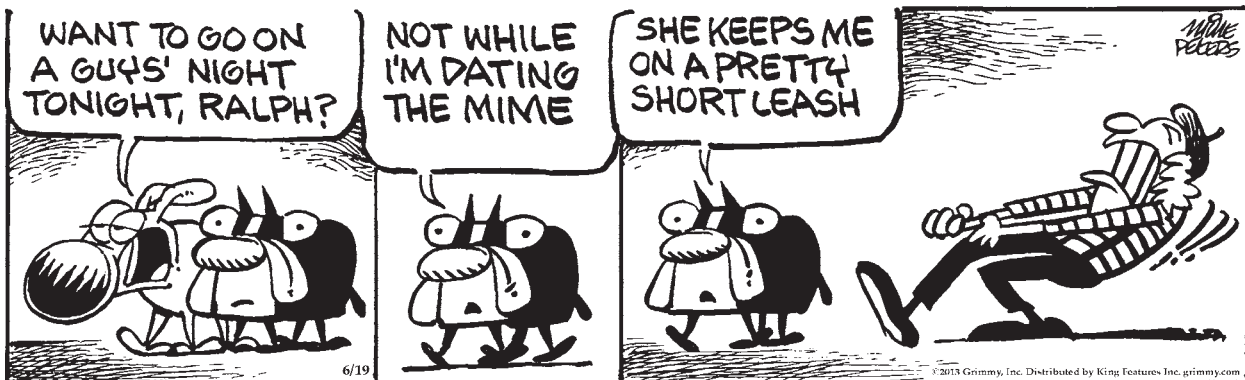
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6	4	9						
			7	8	4	9	1	
		8				2		
		6					9	
		9				6	8	2
	8	1	3		9	4		7
8	3		2		6			9
4			5			7	6	
	1	5						

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/19

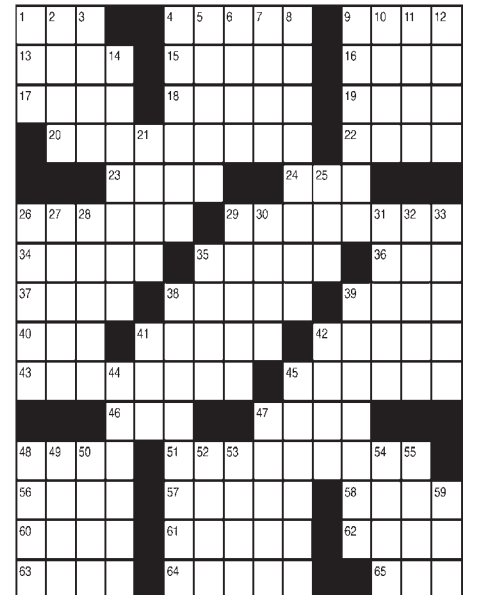
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	3	1	4	5	9	6	2	8
5	8	4	2	3	6	9	1	7
2	9	6	1	7	8	4	5	3
8	4	3	6	2	7	5	9	1
6	2	7	5	9	1	8	3	4
1	5	9	8	4	3	7	6	2
9	7	2	3	8	5	1	4	6
3	1	5	7	6	4	2	8	9
4	6	8	9	1	2	3	7	5

ACROSS

- At the present time
- oneself; worked steadily
- Puncture
- Fills with wonder
- Over
- Canary's home
- Shout
- Beauty spots on the skin
- Come __; find
- Messiest
- Table supports
- Hockey score
- Mischief maker
- Leftover bits
- Feinstein and Hatch, e.g.
- Actor Michael
- Place of refuge
- Actor's signal
- Blyth and Curry
- "There was an old woman who __ in a shoe..."
- Part of the leg
- Journal
- Apple drink
- Adolescents
- Abandoned
- In __; ruling
- Immerse in a color solution
- Lunch or dinner
- Bangkok native
- Giving in
- Sword handle
- Turn aside, as the eyes
- __ as a pin
- Disassemble
- Slight coloring
- Actress Storm
- Night twinkler
- Firstborn of two
- __ away; fled



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/19/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ANEW	SPATS	SCAN
TUNA	TENET	ALLY
ODDS	OTTER	DUPE
PESTERS	MILDEST	
	RYE	REPEL
AGREE	AID	GEARS
FOOL	ASP	VISUAL
TOM	TRIPLET	DIE
ESPRIT	LET	TIDE
RESET	WEE	KIOSK
	PLAID	CID
GIBLETS	JANITOR	
ALAI	ODDER	ERGO
NILE	NOISE	SERB
GELS	EMPTY	TEES

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6/19/13

DOWN

- Vote from one opposed
- Has debts
- In good health
- Prairies of South America
- Yellow shade
- Regretting
- Good judgment
- Keep under cover
- Able to read and write
- Closing tightly
- Weep

- This and __
- Newspaper head
- Middle
- Come together
- Therefore
- Helpful suggestion
- Actor Alan __
- Corrupt
- Give to a borrower
- Within reach
- Festive celebration
- "A diller, a dollar, a __ o'clock..."

When car rental reservations aren't honored

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Business Writer

We're sorry, sir, but we don't have any cars left. That was my unpleasant welcome to Michigan by Hertz.

I had a reservation. They saw the reservation. The problem: Hertz hadn't actually saved me a car.

So here I was, just off a plane in Kalamazoo, suitcase in tow and no car. I wasn't the only one stranded and — I later learned from my cab driver — it happens somewhat regularly.

After the initial shock, all that kept flashing through my head was a 1991 Seinfeld episode where a car rental firm doesn't have Jerry's reserved car.

"But the reservation keeps the car here. That's why you have the reservation," Seinfeld says. "You know how to take the reservation, you just don't know how to hold the reservation. And that's really the most important part of the reservation: the holding." Reserving a car is different than almost any other travel product.

Airfare is typically non-refundable once you purchase a ticket. Hotel rooms

can be canceled up to a certain point — usually 4 p.m. the night of arrival. But there's typically no penalty for reserving a car and never picking it up.

That leaves the industry with many more reservations than actual renters. So just like airlines sell more tickets on planes than seats, car rental agencies sometimes don't have enough cars to meet their



Customers wait in line at a Hertz rental car counter at San Jose International Airport in San Jose, Calif.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

demand.

"During the course of a year, this phenomenon is a rare occasion and occurs less than 1 percent of the time," Paula Rivera, a spokeswoman for Hertz Global Holdings, Inc., parent company of Hertz, Dollar and Thrifty, said via email.

If a reserved car class is not available, it is Hertz's policy

to provide a complimentary upgrade to the next available car class.

In situations like mine where there are no cars left at the airport, Hertz will let customers rent from a competitor and pay the difference, or pay for a cab to and from your hotel, asking you to return the next morning when more cars might be available.

The company will also provide a \$50 voucher for a future rental.

Alice Pereira, a spokeswoman for Avis Budget Group, Inc., outlined a nearly identical policy at her company. A representative for Enterprise Holdings, the parent of Alamo Rent A Car, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and National Car Rental, did not respond to numerous requests for comment.

For me, a solution wasn't so simple. Everybody else in Kalamazoo was out of cars and Hertz said it would be days until they got more vehicles.

I had an early meeting for work the next day and needed a car. Luckily, the airport in Grand Rapids, Mich. — 58 miles (93 kilometers) away — did have some cars available. □

Classifieds

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FOR SALE

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2 bBedr 3rd Floor
wk 24+25 (Sat-Sat)
Pool & Ocean View
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itraruba@gmail.com

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FOR SALE

Divi Phoenix Villa
Discount Price
Lg Corner Studio
Weeks 19 & 20
ocean view
Call 737-3000
itraruba@gmail.com

199721

FOR SALE

La Cabana 1 Bedr
Motivated Seller
wk 22 (Sat-Sat)
Pool & Ocean View
Call 737-3000
itraruba@gmail.com

199721

FOR SALE

House for sale by owner
close to the beach in Alto Vista
Nice Residential Area
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Study gauging value in schools for technology

MOTOKO RICH

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With school districts rushing to buy computers, tablets, digital white boards and other technology, a new report questions whether the investment is worth it. In a review of student survey data conducted in conjunction with the federal exams known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the non-profit Center for American Progress found that middle school math students more commonly used computers for basic drills and practice than to develop sophisticated skills. The report also found that no state was collecting data to evaluate whether technology investments were actually improving student achievement.

"Schools frequently acquire digital devices without discrete learning goals and ultimately use these devices in ways that fail to adequately serve students, schools, or taxpayers," wrote Ulrich Boser, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and the author of the report.

The analysis of the NAEP data found that 34 percent of eighth graders who took the math exams in 2011 used computers to "drill on math facts" while less than a quarter worked with spreadsheets or geometric figures on the computer. Only 17 percent used statistical programs.

The federal survey data showed striking differences among racial groups and income levels.

More than half of the black students who took the eighth-grade math exam in 2011 said they used computers to work on math, while only 30 percent of white students said they did.

Similarly, 41 percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunches said they used computers for math drills, compared with 29 percent of students whose families earn too much for them to qualify for the lunches. □

Review finds a spinal treatment's benefit overstated

BARRY MEIER

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Researchers have long argued that a heralded spinal treatment sold by the nation's largest device maker, Medtronic, was no better than an older one and possibly more risky. Now with the company's help, they have the proof. The evidence, published recently in a medical journal, is the first fruit of a movement aimed at helping doctors and patients make better treatment choices. Its goal is to have companies make clinical data about a drug or a medical device available to a wide range of researchers,

personal agendas of the researchers involved.

"To improve the care of patients, clinical trial data, protocols and results need to be made more widely available and shared for public benefit," according to an editorial in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, which published the Medtronic-related reports.

Medtronic's decision to release data about spinal treatment followed charges in 2011 in a medical journal that company-sponsored studies about the product had overstated its benefit and played down its risks. Other producers are weighing the

reoperation rate, median time to return to work and fusion rates."

Many of the Infuse reports were written by researchers who received millions of dollars over the years in consulting fees and other payments from Medtronic, including Dr. Thomas A. Zdeblick of the University of Wisconsin and Dr. J. Kenneth Burkus, a spine surgeon in Georgia. The early reports led to the widespread use of Infuse for the specific type of spinal fusion for which the Food and Drug Administration had given approval and by surgeons as an "off-label" treatment in other types of

is published by the nation's biggest group of spine surgeons, the North American Spine Society.

Experts involved in research, like Zdeblick and Burkus, defended their work and insisted that their ties to Medtronic had not influenced them. But facing a firestorm, Medtronic agreed in 2011 to provide \$2.5 million to Yale University to oversee an independent review of study data. The resulting examinations, published Monday, involved reviews by two separate teams.

A professor at Yale who oversaw the review, Dr. Harlan M. Krumholz, said



The offices of, Medtronic, the company behind the bone growth product, Infuse, in an undated handout photo. Independent reviews of clinical trial data concluded the benefits of Infuse, used in spinal fusion, were overstated, and that it might pose risks, the first fruit of a movement aimed at helping doctors and patients make better treatment choices.

(Handout via The New York Times)

not just a few hand-picked ones.

The development is the latest step in an evolving, decadelong push by patient advocates to make the practice of medicine more transparent. As a result of that effort, companies have recently started disclosing their payments to doctors and medical journals now require researchers to reveal any financial ties to a study's sponsor.

By getting companies to release study data, advocates say, outside experts can vet whether reports in medical journal about the tests are accurate and complete. The concern is that the reports, which doctors rely on to learn about a treatment, can be shaped not only by financial factors but also by the

impact of adverse publicity if they decide not to follow suit against the possible impact on sales if they do.

The Medtronic product at issue, which was first sold in 2002, is a bioengineered bone growth protein called Infuse that is used in spinal fusion, a common procedure performed to reduce back pain. Starting about a decade ago, some studies, including those sponsored by Medtronic, reported in medical journals that Infuse produced superior patient outcomes than the traditional material used in the procedure, a bone graft, and posed little if any risk. One 2003 report, for example, concluded that Infuse produced "statistically superior outcomes with regard to length of surgery, blood loss, hospital stay,

fusion procedures. By 2011, Infuse was used in about a quarter of the estimated 432,000 spinal fusions performed in this country each year, but by then it had become controversial because of its cost and growing safety complaints.

In 2008, for example, the FDA warned that it had received reports of life-threatening complications when Infuse was used off-label to fuse together vertebrae in the upper, or cervical, portion of the spine. The controversy reached a climax in 2011, when a medical publication, *The Spine Journal*, devoted an issue to reports that repudiated the Medtronic-sponsored research, calling it misleading and biased. The journal's move was significant because it

that while the two teams had slightly different findings, they pointed in the same direction.

"The general, overall picture is that they failed to find a big benefit," for Infuse, Krumholz said. "And they found there might be some harms."

Doctors and patients, he said, could use the review's information to decide which treatment was best for them.

Some reviewers also concluded that the Medtronic-financed research had - unwittingly or not - presented a misleading picture.

"Selective reporting or underreporting of outcomes in journal publications may have misrepresented the benefits and harms," of Infuse, the Oregon group wrote. □

STAR GAZING

Bieber behind wheel as car hits paparazzi in LA



Justin Bieber in Los Angeles. (Handout Photo)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Video shows Justin Bieber running into a photographer with his white Ferrari in Hollywood, but police say there was no crime and the injuries aren't life-threatening. Lt. Craig Valenzuela says Bieber's car collided with the person at 11:45 p.m. local time Monday on Sunset Boulevard. Valenzuela says nobody was cited or arrested and officers determined no crime was committed. He says investigators are trying to determine whether the pedestrian was in the roadway. A video posted by TMZ.com shows Bieber getting into a Ferrari. He's surrounded by paparazzi and as the car drives off, one falls to the ground and grips his knee. A request for comment from Bieber's publicist, Melissa Victor, was not immediately returned. □

Diving legend Greg Louganis to marry in fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis plans to get married this year. People magazine says the 53-year-old Louganis will marry paralegal Johnny Chaillot. The four-time gold medalist is the only man to win consecutive Olympic titles in springboard and platform diving — in 1984 at Los Angeles and 1988 at Seoul. After his diving career ended, Louganis revealed he was gay in 1994 and announced he was HIV-positive a year later. Louganis is helping Olympic hopefuls as an athlete mentor for USA Diving. He's also been featured as a coach on ABC's reality diving competition "Splash." □

'World War Z' draws massive crowd in NYC

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of screaming fans brought Times Square to a standstill as they waited to catch a glimpse of Brad Pitt at the premiere of his new thriller, "World War Z." The 49-year old actor took his time to talk to reporters on the appropriately-designed "Z-shaped" red carpet, often breaking away to sign autographs and pose for photographs with fans.

"We're not doing this small... we're going big this summer," Pitt said of the premiere that resembled a music festival.

Pitt stars in and produced the apocalyptic thriller based on the book by Max Brooks.

He's the son of the legendary comic actor and director Mel Brooks.

Pitt plays a former United Nations investigator who traverses the world in a race against time to stop a zombie pandemic that is threatening to decimate humanity.

"We liked this idea of taking a genre and using that as, I guess, a metaphor for pandemics, and what if one of

While Pitt sees the film as more of a summer thriller than a cautionary tale, he's nonetheless intrigued

he said. As for letting his children see it, Pitt feels the movie is not appropriate for the younger ones.



Actor Brad Pitt taking a photo with a fan at the premiere of "World War Z" in Times Square on Monday, June 17, 2013, in New York.

(Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

these pandemics jumped the tracks. Would we be ready? What countries would be in better shape, what countries would take the biggest hit?" Pitt said of the zombie thriller.

by the political subtext. "A movie is only good if it speaks about our time, if it's personal in some way, and it plugs into the zeitgeist to irritate a little bit. I think we got that here,"

"My two oldest I've let see it, and they've loved it. Parental guidance, it's called parental guidance," Pitt said of only allowing Maddox, 11, and Pax, 8, to see the film. □

James Franco seeks \$500K in crowd-funding

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Following crowd-funding campaigns from "Veronica Mars" and Zach Braff, James Franco is trying to raise \$500,000 to bankroll a trilogy of movies. Franco on Monday night started a campaign on Indiegogo, a crowd-funding alternative to Kickstarter that allows people to keep the money they raise even if the project doesn't come to fruition. Franco isn't trying to direct the films; he's raising money so that a collection of young filmmakers can adapt his 2011 short story collection, "Palo Alto." "Because of who I am, people often believe that it is easy to find investors and distributors for my films," wrote Franco. "Unfortunately, things aren't that easy. More times than not, I have put in my own money to produce my films and my student's films. However, this time it's



Actor James Franco at the LA premiere of "Spring Breakers" at the ArcLight Hollywood in Los Angeles. Franco is seeking to raise \$500,000 to bankroll a trilogy of movies. Franco on Monday, June 17, on IndieGogo, a crowd-funding site that allows people to keep the money they raise, even if the project doesn't come to fruition.

(Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

different. We need more funding, I will still fund part of it but I need of your help, filming three feature films back-to-back requires more funding than I can give." Franco pledges to donate any profits from

the films to Art of Elysium, a nonprofit that encourages entertainers to visit children with serious medical conditions. Levels of contribution range from \$10 for copies of the screenplays to \$10,000, which gets dinner

with Franco and an executive producer credit. The three films — titled "Memoria," "Yosemite" and "Killing Animals" — will pull from stories Franco wrote about his California hometown. Directing will be Bruce Thierry Cheung, Gabrielle Demeestere, Nina Ljeti and Vladimir de Fontenay, all of whom are current or former students from New York University, where Franco attended the film program. Franco, who currently stars in the apocalyptic comedy "This Is the End," has directed a number of feature films. He premiered his William Faulkner adaptation "As I Lay Dying" at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The campaign didn't immediately take off like those did for "Veronica Mars" and Braff's film. As of late Tuesday morning, it had pulled in \$22,000, with 30 days to go before the campaign closes on July 17. □

Music Review:

Kanye West eerie, erratic on hard to digest 'Yeezus'

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

Kanye West, "Yeezus" (Def Jam/Roc-A-Fella)

It's hard to digest all of Kanye West on his new album.

"Yeezus" is the rapper's darkest, eeriest and most erratic album of his six solo releases. He is in militant form on the 10-track set, rapping over beats that are artsy, electronic and gloomy. It's a far stretch from the contemporary rap and pop success he achieved with more than a dozen Top 10 hits, including "Gold Digger," "Stronger" and "Heartless." But that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"Yeezus" continues on the dark and emotive path he set on 2010's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" and "808s & Heartbreak," which

was released two years earlier. The production throughout "Yeezus" is exceptional, with Rick Rubin, Daft Punk, No ID, RZA and more helping out. The album flows nicely, with songs including layered vocals and transitions that elevate them to great heights: "On Sight" starts the album with the right energy and West gets an epic and soulful assist from Charlie Wilson on the closing track, "Bound 2." It's a classic Yeezy effort and arguably the album's best track.

Lyrical, though, West isn't always at his best. The album lacks deep storytelling from the 36-year-old, which he powerfully delivered on past albums. He sounds random and frustrated at times, and at others, he'll frustrate you (he raps of an oral sex act from a nun on

"I'm in It"). Really? FOR-RE-ALZY YEEZY?

West raps about religion a good amount on "Yeezus," which is his Jesus-like moniker. "If I don't get ran out by

Catholics, here come some conservative Baptists," he says on "Black Skinhead." And on "I Am a God" — well, you get it.

But religious folks won't be

the only ones upset with the album: While West has promoted "Yeezus" with performances on "Saturday Night Live" and video projections to match the album's wild sound, he's releasing it without a huge single on radio or on the charts.

There isn't even an official music video. While he charted new territory on "Twisted Fantasy," that album was sprinkled with radio-ready anthems like "All of the Lights."

For the performer with the largest voice in rap — and sometimes in all of music — he deserves praise for not conforming to mainstream and radio rules like other pop stars.

He may lose some fans because his new sound isn't easy to digest, but he'll likely gain others, too. □



This CD cover image released by Def Jam Recordings shows "Yeezus," the latest release by Kanye West. (AP Photo/Def Jam Recordings)

Burberry showcases latest menswear in London



A model wear a creation by Burberry during London Men's spring summer fashion collections 2014, in London, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Womenswear and accessories like handbags may be the mainstays of the luxury goods market, but right now menswear is where the growth is.

That appears to be true, at

least, for British luxury brand Burberry, which showcased its latest menswear designs in London on Tuesday after a decade in Milan.

The move brings the brand's menswear division in line with its womenswear branch, which has led the London Fashion Week circuit with glitzy, celebrity-studded shows for the past few seasons. It also signaled a new focus on menswear, which the brand has reported to be its fastest growing product division in the past year.

"It's an ever-growing category — the business is

doing extremely well," the brand's design chief, Christopher Bailey, told The Associated Press after the show. "Men are enjoying fashion more than ever. (They're) actually caring about the way they're looking, smelling and feeling."

The brand joins other top industry players, including Tom Ford, Alexander McQueen and Paul Smith, which are also showing menswear this week in the British capital. Bailey said his new spring collection for Burberry is inspired by painter David Hockney and writer Alan Bennett, both famous names in British culture circles. But Bailey's vision of British elegance is not at all like the traditional Savile Row tailoring that the country is famous for.

Tuesday's catwalk was dominated by casual outfits that focused on relaxed shapes, whimsical layering and unexpected color combinations: Denim blue and turquoise with lavender, or teal and mustard with navy. Tailored dress shirts were worn one over the other — the outside one doubling as a light jacket —

and shirts with large polka dots clashed with striped, narrow ties.

Trousers were slim and ankle-grazing, worn with colorful boat shoes or suede loafers and no socks, and models carried slouchy leather bags in bright red, yellow or blue.

The show, in London's Kensington Gardens, drew tennis star Serena Williams and British singer Tinie Tempah to its front row and appeared to be well-received by guests. "It's got a very modern feeling and is very delicate at the same time," said Tiziana Cardini, fashion director at Milan's La Rinascente department store. She added that while Milan is more established as a menswear capital, London is also starting to gain recognition with Burberry's move there.

Best known for its military-style trench coats, Burberry reported in May that while womenswear and accessories remained its biggest earners, menswear outperformed the others in growth last year, achieving a 13-percent revenue increase. □

(Photo by Joel Ryan/Invision/AP)

The Other Side Of The Story



GAIL COLLINS

© 2013 New York Times

The deck is always stacked when we debate keeping the nation safe.

Recently, we discovered that the National Security Agency is keeping an enormous file of our phone calls. In the NSA's defense, its chief, Gen. Keith Alexander, said "dozens" of potential terrorist attacks had been thwarted by that kind of effort. The director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, suggested it might prevent "the next Boston."

How do you argue with that? True, the NSA program had been up and running for years without being able to prevent the first Boston. And Alexander declined to identify the thwarted attacks, arguing that might aid potential terrorists.

But most Americans were sold. The words "terrorist attack" conjured up terrible, vivid pictures. On the other side was just a humongous computer bank full of numbers. If you didn't do anything wrong, what was the problem?

Today, let's try putting a face on it in the form of Brandon Mayfield.

A Kansas native, Mayfield went to college and law school, served in the Army, married, had three children, and moved to Portland, Ore., to practice law. His story begins with - yes! - an enormous federal database, in this case the one that collected fingerprints of Americans who served in the military.

In 2004, after terrorists bombed commuter trains in Madrid, Spanish officials found a suspicious fingerprint on a plastic bag at the scene. The FBI ran it through their files and decided, erroneously, that it matched Mayfield's. Further investigation revealed that Mayfield had married an Egyptian immigrant and converted to Islam - information the authorities apparently found far more compelling than the fact that he had never been to Spain.

Peculiar things then began to happen in the Mayfield house. His wife, Mona, returned home to find unlocked doors mysteriously bolted. Their daughter Sharia, then 12, noticed that someone had been fooling around with her computer.

"I had a desktop monitor, and it looked like some of the screws had been taken out and not put back in all the way," she said in a phone interview. "And the hard drive was sticking out."

Later, the family would learn that agents had broken into their home and Mayfield's law office repeatedly, taking DNA swabs from the bathroom, nail clippings

and cigarette butts, along with images of all the computer hard drives.

"I became very paranoid that someone was going into my room," said Sharia.

The snoopers had warrants from the court set up by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. FISA courts are supposed to keep investigators within the law while they're secretly searching for terrorists. We have been hearing a lot about this recently, since the Obama administration keeps pointing out that the NSA's phone records project had the blessing of FISA judges. Last year, the feds made 1,856 requests to FISA judges and got 1,856 thumbs-up.

So there we are: Search of huge database produces a (wrong) name. Investigators get permission to search an American family's house without their knowledge, from a secret court that does not seem to be superhard to convince.

One day, FBI agents walked into Mayfield's office, handcuffed him and took him away. When Sharia left school, her brother met her and told her that their father had been arrested. She assumed it was a joke.

"I said something like, 'Oh - good one, bro.' Then my brother started to cry."

For the next two weeks, Mayfield remained in jail, imagining a possible death penalty. His daughter recalls the family's isolation, coupled with omnipresent radio and television reports about the alleged Madrid bomber.

"School was a refuge in some ways from the reality of home, which was hell," Sharia said. Spain saved the day. The Spanish investigators were dubious from the beginning that the fingerprints at the bombing site were Mayfield's; they had been hoping, perhaps, for a person who had set foot in Europe within the last decade. They found and arrested someone whose finger was a real match.

Mayfield was released. The government eventually paid him \$2 million in damages and, in a rare act of contrition, issued a formal apology to him and his family. A federal judge in Oregon also found that the Patriot Act's authorization of secret searches against U.S. citizens was unconstitutional - a ruling that was reversed on a technicality by a higher court.

That was nearly a decade ago. "But you never quite get over these things," Mayfield said. "It was a harrowing ordeal. It was terrifying."

He and his daughter are working on a book about what happened. Sharia is also going to law school.

"I want to do civil liberties," she said.

So there we are. It's just one story. But I suspect the national willingness to give government a blank check on national security matters comes to a screeching halt at about the point where the agents tiptoe into the daughter's bedroom. □



This Isn't How To Stop Hackers



JOE NOCERA

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WUHAN, China - When we landed in China early this week, we hadn't realized that a long holiday, the Dragon Boat Festival, was about to begin. It took us a little while to figure out why traffic was so light in Beijing, and why the offices where we were meeting officials were so deserted. We were a handful of journalists on a three-city tour that included Beijing, Shanghai and Wuhan, an industrial city in central China. (The trip was organized by the China-United States Exchange Foundation, which organizes trips for Western journalists to China four or five times a year.)

Because we had just come from the United States, the news about Edward Snowden was much on our minds. To us, at least, it seemed to scream for a Chinese response. Snowden, a 29-year-old employee of Booz Allen Hamilton, had leaked information about a huge program conducted by the National Security Agency to obtain a record of every phone call made in the United States. He also leaked news of another program, Prism, that gathered information from Facebook, Apple and other tech companies about the cyberactivity of customers. The revelations were astonishing.

Now Snowden was hiding out somewhere in Hong Kong, popping up just long enough to grant the occasional interview. What would China do if, say, Snowden

asked for asylum? And what did China have to say about all this spying by the U.S. government? Not much, at least not at first. In one early meeting, the official answering our questions knew so little about l'affaire Snowden that he asked us to walk him through it. "It sounds like Hong Kong has quite a problem," he grinned.

Yes, we all concluded: It had to be the lingering effects of the Dragon Boat Festival.

It's not that there weren't other things that Chinese officials wanted to talk about. But most of their observations began with the idea that their government was trying to be the "good" superpower, wanting harmonious relations with the United States, while the Americans continued to act in provocative ways, putting peace-loving China on edge. Topping the list of such "provocations" was the accusation made by the Obama administration that China has been hacking into American computers.

Is China hacking? Of course it is - on a broad scale. A report issued in February by the Mandiant Group was close to definitive. It traced a group of hackers to a building owned by the People's Liberation Army. Yet any question broached on the subject brought furious rebuttals. China did not hack American computers, we were told. Our so-called evidence was pathetic. Zhang Ping, the vice president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, described the hacking allegations as "defamation." Chinese computers were hacked every day, he said - by Americans. It was the classic Chinese response to allegations it didn't want to discuss.

There was another classic response, which we saw a few days later. After he had been in Hong Kong a few days, Snowden gave another interview in which he said that the United States had routinely hacked into Chi-

nese computers. In addition to suddenly improving his chances of gaining asylum, Snowden had given the Chinese the ammunition they had been looking for.

All over the country, a magic switch went on. Thousands of writers and editors who hadn't dared touch the Snowden story on Tuesday couldn't get enough of it on Wednesday.

"The U.S. Has Attacked Chinese Networks for 15 Years," said a headline in The Yangtze Daily. "Snowden Leaks Information About Prism to Reveal the Hypocrisy of the U.S. Government," added The Wuhan Evening News.

China Daily quoted a Chinese expert on American affairs saying, "For months, Washington has been accusing China of cyberespionage, but it turns out the biggest threat to the pursuit of individual freedom and privacy in the U.S. is the unbridled power of the government."

I don't know whether Prism and the other programs truly stop terrorists. I have my doubts. What I do know is that if you are going to lecture the world about right and wrong - and if you're trying to stop bad behavior - perhaps you shouldn't be engaging in a version of that behavior yourself. Instead, this has become one of the trademarks of the Obama administration: decry human rights abuses abroad, but hold men in prison in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, who have never been accused of a crime. Say all the right things about freedom of the press - even as you're subpoenaing reporters' phone records. And express outrage over Chinese hacking while carrying on a sophisticated spying operation of your own citizens. It may seem to us a false equivalence, but the existence of Prism will make it far more difficult to force the Chinese to get serious about stopping their own hacking.

Maybe America's new motto should be: Do As We Say, Not As We Do. □



A man offers jade for trade at a bazaar in Xinjiang province, China. Because gems are formed when molecules interact in extreme physical circumstances, the presence of gems like rubies and jade indicates past tectonic activity. (Shiho Fukada/The New York Times)

Geology Clues: Glittering Gems Show Earth's Story

CARL ZIMMER

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A jewelry store is an archive of the Earth. Every gem fixed to every ring or necklace was forged deep inside our planet, according to its own recipe of elements, temperature and pressure.

It has taken awhile, however, for geologists to decode the cookbook for gems. Jade, for example, puzzled geologists for decades. "For a long time people looked at this crazy rock, and it didn't make any sense," said George Harlow, a geologist at the American Museum of Natural History. Yet thanks to the research of Harlow and other geologists, jade now has a back story: It formed in dying oceans.

The discovery of gems like rubies and jade thus signifies more than just a new supply of bling in jewelry stores. It tells geologists some important things about the planet.

If rocks contain jade, the

scientists can be fairly sure those rocks are a vestige of an ocean buried underground. Rubies, on the other hand, appear in places where mountains formed from continental collisions, even if those mountains were eroded away millions of years ago.

Gems may thus preserve precious clues to some of the most profound questions about the life of our planet.

The Earth is covered with tectonic plates. In some places, like off the coast of the northwestern United States, ocean plates are being pushed underneath continental ones. As the plates sink, they are squeezed to titanic pressures. They also get cooked. Under these extreme conditions, their atoms are combined into new molecular arrangements that would never emerge anywhere else on Earth. Hot jets of mineral-rich fluid rise from the plates, pushing up into

the overlying rock. Among the things that emerge from that fluid is a mixture of sodium, aluminum, silicon and oxygen known as jadeite - the most common form of jade.

In the current issue of the journal *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, Harlow and his colleagues report new findings that support this chain of events. At the bottom of the Caribbean Sea, they found jade-bearing deposits that are 30 million years older than the surrounding rock. That's what you would expect if jade-producing fluid rose up from sinking oceanic crust long before other material from a sinking ocean plate.

In the journal *Geology*, Harlow - writing with Robert J. Stern of the University of Texas at Dallas, Tatsuki Tsujimori of Okayama University in Japan and Lee A. Groat of the University of British Columbia - explores some stories that gems like jade can tell. Each is different.

While jade is produced from dying oceans, for example, rubies are forged in newborn mountains.

Some mountain ranges, like the Himalayas, were formed when two continental plates collided. Fifty million years ago, the Indian subcontinent was an isolated island. In a slow-motion crash, it plowed into Asia. The force of the impact crumpled rocks for hundreds of miles inland, producing mountains.

As mountains rose overhead, the Indian plate slid underneath Asia. Once again, the rock was squeezed and heated. Continents are ringed by rocks like shale, formed from sediments washing off land. When crushed in this subterranean forge, shale can produce crystals of aluminum and oxygen.

If these crystals stop developing, they become sapphires, but the crystals may instead get pushed up toward the surface of the Earth. The overlying

rock they move into is rich in chromium. The chromium atoms push the aluminum atoms out of the crystals and take their place, giving them a red color. "When they get a little chromium in them, we call them rubies," Stern said.

The oldest deposits of jade and rubies date to only about 600 million years ago. The Earth itself is more than 4.5 billion years old, which naturally raises the question of why there aren't any jade stones or rubies from the first nearly 4 billion years of the planet's existence.

Stern thinks the answer is that plate tectonics - the stirring of the planet's interior that drives plates around its surface - didn't exist for most of Earth's history.

"I would say it started less than a billion years ago," he said.

That's a controversial idea in the geological community. Perhaps gems may someday resolve it. □